













FAMILY REGISTER  
OF  
George Christian Ritter  
OF  
Leiningen, Rheinpfalz, Baiern  
Germany

and his Descendants  
from the year of our Lord 1735 to the year 1905



COMPILED BY  
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motto: — „Normaerts und Aufwaerts ist unser Spruch“



Familien-Register und  
Stammbaum

des

**Georg Christian Ritter**

aus

Leiningen, Rheinpfalz, Baiern  
Deutschland

und dessen Nachkommen

vom Jahre des Heils 1735 bis zum Jahre 1905



Zusammengesetzt von  
**Philip Johann Ritter**  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
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Das Bild des Verfassers, Philip A. Ritter.

*Complements of the Author*  
*Philip Ritter*





## Vorwort.

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An meine lieben Blutsverwandten.

Ein Gruß an Euch Alle!

Die Anregung zum Schreiben einer Familien-Geschichte, Register oder Stamm-baum, entstand dadurch, daß man täglich Leute sagen hört: „Meine Eltern oder Großeltern kamen auch von Deutschland, wie aber die Stadt, der Ort oder das Land heißt, weiß ich nicht.“ Viele wissen nicht, wie ihre Großeltern, von der Mutterseite der Familie her, geheißen haben. Auf diese Aeußerungen so Vieler kam mir der Gedanke, daß es schön und wünschenswerth wäre, wenn unsere Nachkommen sagen könnten, wer ihre Voreltern waren, wo sie herkommen und wie sie hießen und was ihr Beruf oder Geschäft war. Durch meinen Besuch mit meiner Familie nach Europa und besonders nach Deutschland fand ich auch eine Sehnsucht, den Ort wo ich geboren und erzogen wurde, zu sehen, dasselbe Verlangen die Stelle zu sehen wo mein Vater geboren und erzogen war, gleich stark in mir, und ich und meine beiden Söhne fuhren nach dem Ort, nach der Stelle, wovon mein Vater mir so oft und viel erzählte, nämlich nach dem Neuhoß bei Mtleiningen, in der Rheinpfalz; nachdem wir dort angekommen und der damalige Besitzer uns so ziemlich alles Interessante gezeigt und erklärt hatte, kamen wir auf die Geschichte unserer Ahnen zu sprechen. Herr Johann Märcher erbot sich die Geschichte auf dem Rathshaus zu Mtleiningen durchzusuchen und mir nach Amerika nachzuschicken, was er mit Hülfe des Herrn Pfarrers von Mtleiningen auch wirklich that. Durch den Empfang dieser Urkunden wurde in Stand gesetzt es zu unternehmen, einen Stamm-baum oder Familien-Register zu schreiben und zusammen zu setzen, das Fundament dazu war da. Es thut mir aber leid sagen zu müssen, daß ich über den Verbleib der Nachkommen von den Kindern des Georg Christian Mitter, die mit den Eltern nach Rußisch-Polen sind, nichts erfahren konnte. 1897 hatte ich einen Anfang gemacht, mußte es aber wegen Gesundheitszustand unterlassen. Nach Erreichung meines siebenzigsten Lebensjahre wurde ich körperlich und geistig wieder kräftig und

## Vorwort.

fühlte eine Begeisterung dafür, unseren Nachkommen ein Erbtheil zu hinterlassen, worauf ein jeder Nachkomme der vier Brüder: Lorenz Philip, Christian, Johannes und Johann Philip Mitter, Söhne von Georg Christian und Eva Mitter, stolz darauf sein darf, nämlich dieses Buch und dessen Inhalt, worin man nicht nur die Geschichte seiner Ahnen finden kann, sondern seine eigene Geschichte, und weißes Papier genug, um seine eigenen Nachkommen, ihre Namen und Wirken und die Adressen wo die Verwandten wohnen, einschreiben zu können. Um dem Zeitgeist, worin wir jetzt wohnen gerecht zu werden, wo man per Dampf und Electricität 100 Meilen per Stunde fährt; wo man telegraphirt, telephonirt und photographirt, so werden die photographischen Bilder von nahezu hundert Personen von unseren Blutsverwandten in dem Buche zu finden sein, so daß wenn wir die Beschreibung einer Person lesen, wir ihr Bild vor uns haben.

Die Absicht oder der Zweck des Verfassers ist nicht allein auf die Geschichte und Vergangenheit gerichtet, sondern auch auf die Gegenwart und Zukunft.

Freundschaft der Verwandten soll lebend erhalten und gepflegt werden durch öfteres Zusammenkommen, durch Beweise der Liebe zu einander, durch manches gute Werk, das die Freundschaft stärkt, worüber im Englischen in "Cultivating Our Friendship" geredet wird. Nach diesem kommt ein Artikel über "Natural or Moral Law" und eine ganze Reihe von perlenden Worten für Menschen, die denken. Alles dieses habe ich zugefügt für Belehrung der heranwachsenden Generation, besonders der Artikel: "Meditations on the Philosophy of Life," ist als Lehre unserer Nachkommen und zu der Erhaltung des Stammes gewidmet.

Ferner schrieb ich auch noch einen Artikel über "Hygienic," oder Gesundheitsregel, um zum Wohl und Gedeihen der Mitters beizutragen. Ein Artikel über Krankheiten im Anfang derselben und etliche Rezepte für Krankheiten, die der Schreiber dieses erprobt und gut gefunden hat.

Begeistert durch das Wohlwollen seiner Gefühle seinen Angehörigen und Verwandten gegenüber, hat der Verfasser keine Mühe noch Kosten gescheut und den Nachkommen der Familie des Georg Christian Mitter, geboren 1760, dieses Buch gewidmet.

Um unsern deutschen Verwandten zu lieb habe ich den ersten Theil dieses Buches in Deutsch geschrieben. Es ist und bleibt eine schöne Erinnerung an die alte Heimath. Die Beschreibung unseres Geburtslandes, der Orte, der Berge, der Rhein, und sollte die jüngeren Nachkommen aufmuntern die deutsche Sprache zu erhalten in unserer Verwandtschaft. Es ist doch so schön wenn man mehr als eine Sprache kann, und schließe mit dem Spruch:

Pflege die deutsche Sprache,  
Erhalte das deutsche Wort,  
Der Geist unserer Väter  
Lebt in ihnen fort.

## Greeting to Our Blood Relations.

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Many of my blood relations, especially those of my generation, know that ever since I have been in America, I kept in connection with them by correspondence, later by visits and correspondence, until nearly all of our relations had been visited by myself and family, and most of our relations have been brought closer together in friendship by these influences. This extends over a period of time of nearly forty years. Quite a number of relatives have been brought closer together by business ties. I love my kinsmen; I believe that blood is thicker than water. My kinsmen have had the preference in business opportunities with me and in the case of many of them, their life's doings been shaped and made a success, through this influence of relationship.

We meet many people through life who say that their ancestors came from Europe or Germany, but where they do not know, and some do not even know the names of their grandparents. This is easily understood when the descendants of four brothers in four generations or one hundred years, amount to about four hundred descendants, scattered all over the world. A thought came to my mind, that to keep up our relation and friendship, it would be very good to have a family history, so that future generations might know their ancestors and relations, and that this feeling that blood relations should have for each other should be continued to time indefinite.

While visiting in Germany, I came into possession of the history of our ancestors for four generations back, of my own I have the foundation for the history of this book. At the present time, there are seven generations, whose records are written down in this book. To make simply a record of names of births, marriages and deaths, would, to many, be very uninteresting reading. I have, therefore, given a short description of the origin of the name "Ritter," the country of our ancestors, their family surroundings, biography of the lives as near correct as possible, also the life history of our generations. To keep with the spirit of the age in which we live, there are photographs of many of our relatives in this book.



To prolong the life of the present and future generations and continue our kindred and make them happy and good citizens of this great country of ours by adoption, the United States of America, you will find a number of writings on Natural or Moral Law, that are very gratifying to one's soul. Some of the writings I have had over thirty years, and value them like pearls and diamonds.

Following the foregoing, is an article on the "Meditations on the Philosophy of Life" and hygienic rules, also a few remarks on the treatment of diseases, as experienced by the writer.

The writer's object of all is to leave each of the descendants of the four brothers, Lorenz, Philip, Christian, Johannes, and Johann Philip Ritter, sons of George Christian and Eva Ritter of Neuhoft, Altleiningen, an inheritance that they can point to with pride, and that is, they should read family history. I hope that generation after generation will follow in the same honorable path, and that this shall be their guide, and continue the history of future generations on the blank pages in the back of this book. I request, also, that *the possessor* of a book shall write in the back of the book the name of the person he shall will the book to after his death.

Those of our blood relations that were not so fortunate as to receive a German education and cannot read the first or German part of this book, the writer informs them herewith that the only thing not written in English is the description of the native towns and country where born and raised, and the older generation that came from Germany and had no time or opportunity to learn the English grammar. It is those that the writer had in mind to give the pleasure to read in the language they understand best.

In writing the conclusion of this book I wish to say to the descendants of the Ritter family that they should hold this book as sacred nearly as their Bible, for herein is the history of their father and mother and also their own. This part concludes only my writings. This book is not concluded until all the blank papers contained herein are filled with writings of the history of future generations yet unborn, together with their doings and their pictures; therefore, take care of this book, guard it against loss from any cause, fire or accident. Many persons have inherited great wealth by being able to trace their

ancestry. Do not change any letter in your name that might be a hindrance to anyone doing so in cases of inheritance. Books are written and printed to be read, and they are read often if they are interesting to the person reading them. The author of this has tried his best to make this interesting to all concerned, and hopes that he has succeeded to please the largest number of our relatives; to please all, is an impossibility. If any one of the families find that something concerning them has been omitted, they can enter it on the blank pages of the book and send a copy of the same to others that have the books, to enter on theirs. The address of the possessors of this book will be found in the Registry of Names.



## Ein Ritter.

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Ein Ritter, der hoch sein Schwert für Freiheit schwingt,  
 Mit Wort und Schrift nach Wahrheit ringt,  
 Ein deutsches Lied gefühlvoll singt,  
 Sein erstes Glas dem Liebchen bringt, —  
 Dem schenket von dem besten Wein  
 Den Becher bis zum Rande ein  
 Und laßt in unseres Bundes Reib'n  
 Ihn tausendmal willkommen sein.



GERMAN NATIONAL MONUMENT

At the Niederwald. Erected in commemoration of the unity of the German Nation in 1883, on the top of a terraced vineyard-covered side of a mountain, facing the River Rhine, and Bingen, 800 feet below. The beauty of the landscape and scenery beyond is unsurpassed in Europe. Architectural base of monument, 80 feet high. Noble figure of *Germania*, 35 feet high, called the "Wacht am Rhein."





## Ein Gebet.

Nicht fleh' ich um den Segen ew'gen Glückes,  
 Nicht fleh' ich um ein flüchtig Erdengut :  
 Gib, Ewiger, nur in Stürmen des Geschickes  
 Dem Geiste Kraft und meinem Herzen Muth.  
 Den Pfad des Rechtes laß mich ruhig schreiten,  
 Ob still die Luft, ob wild die Stürme weh'n ;  
 Und eins gib mir, Gott, zu allen Zeiten,  
 O die ich liebe, laß mich glücklich seh'n.

Nur der ist arm, der einsam zieht die Pfade,  
 Von dem hinweg der Liebe Engel flieh'n :  
 Dir, Schicksal, Dank ! du hast in deiner Gnade  
 Der Lieb' und Freundschaft Segen mir verlieh'n.  
 O, Alle, die mir Liebe je gespendet,  
 Auf Blumen laß sie ewig geh'n,  
 Daß nie ihr Glück und Wonne endet,  
 O, die ich liebe, laß mich glücklich seh'n.

Sieh', ihre Freuden will ich jubelnd theilen.  
 Mich soll bewegen was ihr Herz bewegt ;  
 Ich weiß es, meine Wunden werden heilen  
 So lang sie mild die Hand der Liebe pflegt.  
 An ihrer Freude soll mein Herz sich sonnen,  
 Wenn welkend meines Glückes Blumen steh'n,  
 Und ihre Wonnen seien meine Wonnen,  
 O, die ich liebe, laß mich glücklich seh'n.



## Das Land unserer Vorfäter. „Deutschland.“

liegt in Mittel-Europa. Seine Länge ist ungefähr 800 Meilen von Nord nach Süd und 600 Meilen von Ost nach Westen. In Nord-Deutschland ist die Landschaft meistens eben, bis gegen Mittel-Deutschland zu, wo dann verschiedene Bergketten einsetzen. Höhere Berge findet man aber in Süd-Deutschland, nämlich die sogenannten Ausläufer der Alpen. Fünf Hauptströme durchkreuzen das alte Vaterland. Sie heißen, von Osten gezählt: die Weichsel, die Oder, die Elbe, die Weser und der Rhein, während ein anderer Hauptstrom, die Donau, im Süden theilweise das heutige deutsche Reich durchfließt, theilweise auch die Grenze für Oesterreich bildet. Alle diese Flüsse fließen in's Meer, und zwar die erstgenannten zwei in die Ostsee, die übrigen drei in die Nordsee, und die Donau ergießt sich in das Schwarze Meer. Sämmtliche sind auf lange Strecken schiffbar; ganz besonders der Rhein, der wohl am meisten befahren wird und vorzüglich im Sommer und Herbst von den Europa bereisenden Amerikanern, die auf Exkursions-Dampfern den herrlichsten Ausblick auf das Rheinthal mit seinen Weinbergen, Klöstern und Burgruinen genießen. Das Rheinthal in der Pfalz ist im Westen vom Hardtgebirge und den Vogesen begrenzt, während es im Osten an den Schwarzwald und den Odenwald hinanreicht. Beide Bergketten (die Hardt und Odenwald) sind ungefähr 15–20 Meilen vom Rheinstrom entfernt. Das Rheinthal ist ein reiches, gesegnetes Ackerland. Aus den daselbst umgebenden Bergen ergießen sich kleine befruchtende Flüsse in den Rhein. Diese Berge sind meistens dickwaldig und auf den Höhepunkten und Gipfeln mit verschiedenen Burgen gekrönt, die aber heute meistens verfallen sind, doch als Monumente vergangener Zeit ein beredetes Zeugniß einstiger Größe und Macht darlegen. Und schön waren diese Zeiten für die friedlichen Bewohner dieses ruhigen Thales grade nicht, müßten sie doch harten Kriehdienst verrichten und schwere Abgaben an die kleinen und großen Raubherren leisten, die seit Jahrhunderten von ihren Festen und Burgen herab das Volk regirten oder, besser gesagt, knechteten. Der Unterabhang der Vogesen und des Hardtgebirges ist mit Weinreben, Kastanien- und Mandelbäumen bepflanzt. Weiter hinab wird Getreide aller Art gebaut, besonders Korn und Weizen. Der Landstrich näher dem Rheine zu ergiebt Hopfen, Taback und Zuckerrüben.



### Fröhlich Pfalz. Gott erhalt's.

Da liegt ausgebreitet in stets verjüngter Pracht  
 Ein weiter Gottesgarten, vom Himmel reich bedacht.  
 Was nur das Herz ergötzet, was nur den Blick erfreut,  
 Das findest du hier Alles in Fülle ausgestreut.  
 Ringsum die Berge gürtet der Wälder grüner Kranz,  
 Und drüber schwebt die Sonne in ihrem hellsten Glanz.  
 Die lust'gen Nebenhügel, der Aehrenfelder Flur,  
 Sie zeugen von der Liebe der schaffenden Natur.  
 Wo findet sich auf Erden so heinlich trauter Ort?  
 Wo klingt so süß zum Herzen das biedre deutsche Wort?  
 Wo woget auf den Fluren der Segen ohne Zahl?  
 Wo ist zu Nutz und Wonne geschmückt Berg und Thal?  
 Wo fügt sich alles Schöne zum lieblichsten Verein?  
 Sag' an des Landes Namen! — Das ist die Pfalz am Rhein!

Wer weeiß wo dir der Weeße bliehet,  
 Wer weeiß wo dich's Geschick hinzieht.  
 Doch weeiß ich: sinkt der Bannerstab  
 Und stehst du an dem Rand vom Grab,  
 So denk' in Lieb ich jedenfalls  
 Noch froh an dich, du scheeni Pfalz.

Das Land, das unsere Ahnen bewohnten, heißt die Pfalz von Alters her; es war schon im Besitz der Römer gewesen, die es „Palatinatum“ nannten, und findet man noch heute in vielen Theilen der Rheinpfalz Erinnerungen und Spuren der Römerzeit, die vor fast 2,000 Jahren dort schon Heerstraßen und feste Burgen gebaut, ja Städte geschaffen und bevölkert haben. Die Nähe der Pfalz an Frankreich war eine recht häufige und große Ursache des Leidens seiner Einwohner gewesen, da während zahlreicher Kriege dieses Grenzland meistens den Druck der Armeen zu erdulden hatte und nicht selten die Ernte unter den Hufen der Kasse der Heißigen zertreten ward.

Das Klima im westlichen Theile der Pfalz ist rauh, auch ist das Land weniger ergiebig, dagegen aber reich an Mineralien, Kohlen, Eisen, Kupfer und Silber. Diese Produkte wurden in alter Zeit wenig ausgebeutet, denn es fehlte an Transportmitteln, während heutzutage Eisenbahn und Dampfschiff diese Erdschätze nutz-

bar machen, indem sie dieselben nach den großen Handelsstädten befördern, wo Gewerbleiß und Export sie weiter verwerthen.

Viele Herren haben schon die Pfalz regiert und auswärtige dazu, denen am meisten um die Gelder, die sie herauspressen konnten, zu thun war. Die glücklichste für's Volk und ruhmreichste Zeit der Pfalz war unter der Regierung der Kurfürsten, die in Heidelberg residirten.

Am schrecklichsten war es, als im Jahre 1692 die Pfalz von den Franzosen heimgesucht und größtentheils alle bedeutenden Städte und Dörfer verbrannt, verwüstet oder zerstört wurden, so daß viele Einwohner sich nach anderen Ländern flüchteten. Viele gingen auch nach Amerika Ausgangs des 17. Jahrhunderts und Anfangs des 18. Jahrhunderts. Aus dieser Zeit stammt die deutsche Ansiedelung im Staate Pennsylvanien, wo sich der pfälzische Dialekt der deutschen Sprache bis auf den heutigen Tag erhalten hat, gehegt und gepflegt wird.

Zeit 1825 gehört nun die Rheinpfalz zum Königreich Bayern als dessen „Rheinkreis.“ Nachdem nämlich das alte Haus Wittelsbach in Bayern ausgestorben, kam die Nebenlinie unter dem Kurfürsten von der Pfalz auf den bayerischen Thron, von der König Maximilian I., 1825, den Anfang bildet. Bei alledem, daß die Pfalz von Bayern also regiert wird, hat sie doch von 1800 ab ganz erhebliche Vortheile gegenüber anderen deutschen Landen genossen und zwar durch die von der französischen Republik übernommenen Gesetze, deren Urheber Napoleon I. war, und die nach ihm mit dem französischen Namen „Code Napoléon“ benannt sind. Diese Code Napoléon sicherte der Pfalz Gewerbe- und Religionsfreiheit, sowie Unabhängigkeit und Steuerfreiheit wenigstens von den vielen kleinen Adligen und Lehensherren, die das Land und die Bewohner auslaugten; auch wurde damals zugleich die allgemeine Schulpflicht eingeführt. Heute freilich werden die Schulen von den Gemeinden für alle Religionsbekenntnisse gemeinsam gehalten und die Kirche hat den größten Theil ihres Einflusses auf die Verwaltung der Schule verloren.

Die Steuerpflicht unserer Ahnen war eine schwere Last. Nicht nur daß sie ihre Aecker, Häuser, Höfe, Pferde, Vieh und Hunde besteuern lassen mußten, nein, selbst das Licht, das sie durch die Scheiben ihrer Fenster empfangen, mußte gemäß der Anzahl dieser Scheiben versteuert werden. Aber das schlimmste Unrecht bestand in dem sogenannten Zehnten, den sie bei der Ernte stehen lassen mußten, als Abgabe für den, der seine Schergen dann diesen zehnten Theil des Schweißes seiner Unterthanen einheimfen ließ und nach der sogenannten „Zehnteischeuer“ schickte, wo er es verkaufte und das Geld für seine adligen Passionen verpraßte. Das heutige Steuerystem ist einheitlich und gerecht und bildet einen geringen

Prozentsatz des Einkommens, während Leute mit weniger als \$225.00 überhaupt nicht besteuert werden. Der Staat, die Gemeinde und die Kirche bekommen diese Abgaben, über deren Verwendung sie dem Volke öffentlich Rechenschaft ablegen müssen, und dürfen diese Abgaben nur zum allgemeinen Nutzen angewandt werden.

Das Münzsystem in alter Zeit bot ein recht trauriges Bild. Da gab es alle Sorten und Werthe, prägte doch fast jeder einzelne kleine Staat seine eigenen Münzen und nach seiner eigenen Währung. Carolinen (11 Gulden), Louis'd'ors (5 Dollars), 5 Franken-Thaler, preussische Thaler, Kronenthaler 6 Bagen- und 3 Bagen-Stücke, Kreuzer, Groschen und viele andere Münzen. Beim Handel auf den Marktplätzen mußten alle diese verschiedenen Werthe ungerechnet und mit in den Kauf genommen werden, auch ganz vorsichtig hieß es da sein, der Betrug war gar häufig und der Irrthum leicht. Hatte der Händler sein Geschäft vollzogen, so schnallte er diese Münzen in einen ledernen Gurt sich um den Leib, wo es oft auf dem langen manchmal tagelang dauerndem Heimwege recht drückte, aber doch am sichersten war. Heute giebt es im ganzen deutschen Reiche nur ein Münzsystem, das in Mark und Pfennigen besteht. Eine solche Mark ist etwa 25 Cents nach unserem Gelde und hat 100 Pfennige, der Pfennig ist daher die geringste Kupfermünze und obschon beinahe so groß und dick wie 1 Cent, doch nur der vierte Theil im Werthe. Auch werden heutzutage schöne Banknoten, Kassenscheine, Wechsel und Checks verausgabt, die den Verkehr soviel erleichtern. Das ganze deutsche Geldwesen wird von der Reichsbank regulirt, und besteht seit 1871 in ebenso gutem und sicherem System wie das amerikanische, und haben jetzt die Bauern und Händler statt der Geldgürtel um den Leib, ihre Gelder auf der Bank oder Sparkasse und ihre Checkbücher in der Tasche.

Das ist alles anders geworden, daß man heute sich kaum noch in die alte Zeit versetzen kann, und wäre es nicht wegen der alten noch immer bestehenden Märkte und der vererbten und verbrieften Ueberlieferung, man hielte die alten Bauern und Händler, wie sie tagelange Märche und Wege zu Fuß und Wagen machten, ihr ganzes Vermögen auf dem Leibe tragend, wohl für ein närrisches Märchen.

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### Leiningen, oder Altleiningen.

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Ein Ort in der Rheinpfalz, Baiern. Der dazu gehörende Neuhof war vor vielen Jahren der Wohnsitz und Eigenthum von Georg Christian Ritter, dem Stammvater der in diesem Buche Beschriebenen und dessen Nachkommen.

Altleiningen, ein Ort von ungefähr 800 Einwohner, ist eine protestantische



Stilleinungen.





Gemeinde, ist gelegen in dem romantisch-schönen Leininger Thal, an einer Hauptlandstraße, die am Rhein ihren Anfang hat und sich westlich von Altleiningen durch prachtvolle Wälder bis nach Kaiserslautern erstreckt und dort ihren Endpunkt hat. Altleiningen ist berühmt in der Weltgeschichte durch die Fürsten von Leiningen, die dort hoch oben auf einem steilen Berge ihren Palast und Wohnsitz hatten, unter dem Namen Leininger Schloß; bekannt ist es aber, daß dasselbe durch die Franzosen zerstört wurde und nur noch als eine der größten und schönsten Ruinen Deutschlands dasteht. Das Leininger Thal hat seinen Anfang bei Neuleiningen, ein Ort hoch oben auf dem Berge gelegen und geziert durch die Ruine eines Schloffes. Dort hatte ein Zweig der Familie der Fürsten Leiningen ihren Sitz; auf der anderen Seite des Thales, auch hoch oben auf einem Berge, steht die Ruine der Fürsten Battenberg. Beide dieser Schlöffer wurden von den Franzosen zerstört und ihre Bewohner flüchteten über den Rhein und blieben dort. Zwischen diesen steilen bewaldeten Bergen erstreckt sich das enge Thal bis Altleiningen, ungefähr fünf englische Meilen. Für Ackerbau ist kein Raum da, aber für Industrie; die Wasserkraft des in Altleiningen entspringenden Karlsbach wird benutzt; es bestehen da große Farbe-Fabriken, die das rothe und gelbe Chrome, das dort gefunden wird, in Farbe zum Anstreichen von Häusern verwandeln. Auch mehrere Eisen- und Drahtwerke sind dort in Betrieb; in neuerer Zeit ist auch eine Eisenbahn das Thal hinauf gebaut worden. Bei Altleiningen theilt sich das Thal in zwei Theile, die Landschaft wird etwas flacher und ist mehr Land da zum Ackerbau. Da zwischen diesen zwei Thälern, eine englische Meile westlich von Altleiningen, auf einer allmählich steigenden Höhe, liegt der Reuhof mit seinen schönen Feldern und Wiesen umgeben, zweihundert Acker großer Gemarkung und schönern Wohnsitz, aus dessen Fenstern man eine prachtvolle Aussicht hat auf die nach Osten gelegene Landschaft, auf Altleiningen und die Schloßruinen. Altleiningen hat keine besonders große Gemarkung von Land, auch ist es nur mittelmäßig gut, doch erfreut sich die Gemeinde eines Wohlstandes durch die in dem Thal gelegene Industrie.

Altleiningen erfreut sich auch seines guten Trinkwassers. Mitten im Ort befindet sich eine wundervolle Quelle, die mit Cement und Stein eingemauert ist. Der quellende Strom fließt durch zwanzig zweizöllige oder fünf Centimeter Durchmesser neben einander liegenden eisernen Röhren heraus und bildet den Hauptbestand des Wassers des Karlsbaches; Jahr aus und Jahr ein fließt das Wasser immer gleich aus der Quelle heraus.

Von der Geschichte von Altleiningen ist dem Verfasser wenig bekannt; es sind nur gewöhnliche Wohnhäuser und Gebäude da. Danach zu urtheilen ist es auch nach der Zerstörung der Pfalz entstanden.

### Kirchheim an der Eck.

Kirchheim an der Eck, früher Wohnsitz von Christian Ritter und Geburtsort dessen Kinder, Jakob, Christian, Heinrich und Philip J. Ritter und Tochter Elisabeth Ritter.

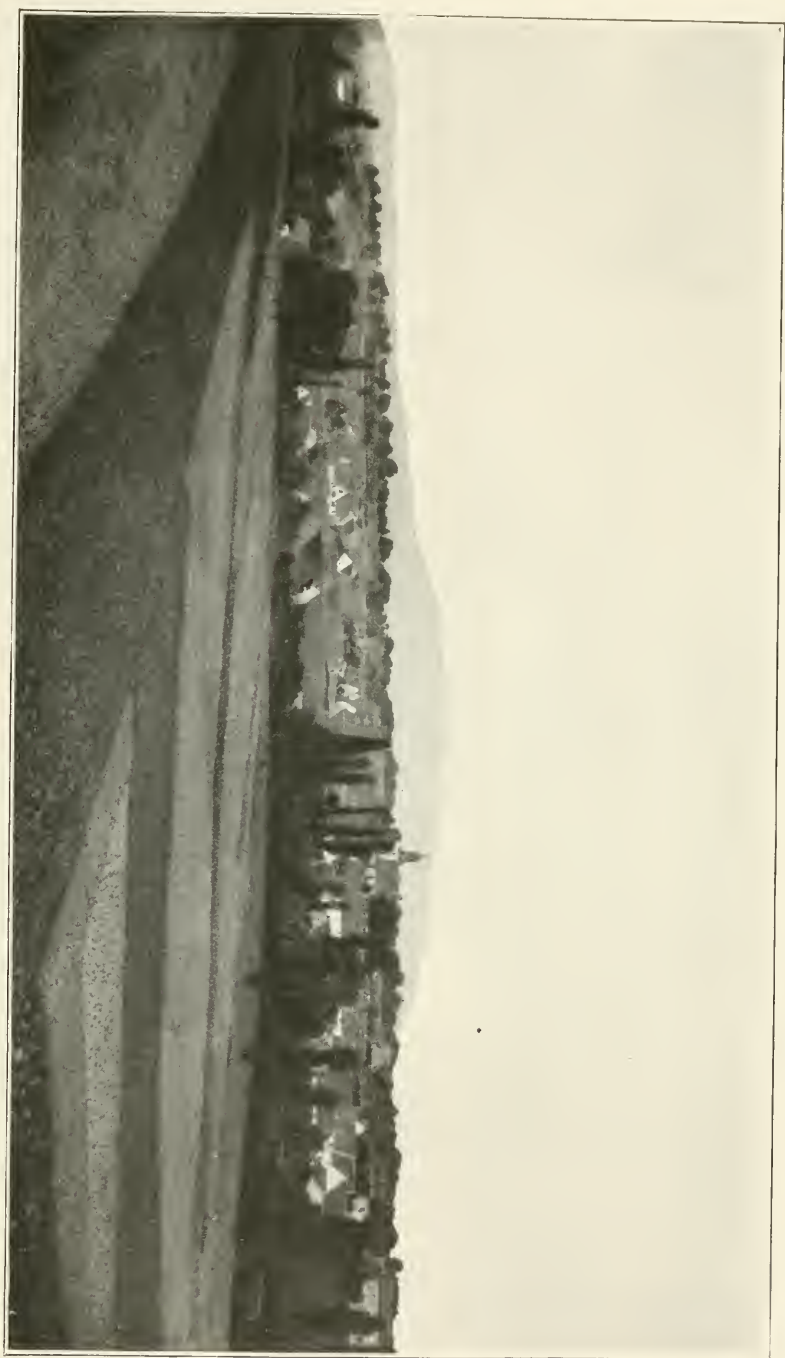
Kirchheim an der Eck, ein schöner großer Ort, gelegen eine Stunde oder drei englische Meilen östlich vom Hardtgebirge, in der Rheinpfalz, Baiern, in einer wunderschönen, reizenden Gegend, hat ungefähr 1,200 Einwohner, ist eine protestantische Gemeinde, hat eine schöne große Kirche mit hohem Thurm und schönen Glocken. Es liegt an der Landstraße, die von Mainz nach Landau führt, hat Bahnhof an der pfälzischen Eisenbahn, die von Mainz nach Straßburg geht. Der Karlsbach fließt dicht vorbei und es stehen drei Mühlen an demselben, die zu Kirchheim gehören.

Ackerbau, Wein- und Obstzucht ist das Hauptgeschäft der Einwohner. Die Felder in der Gemarkung Kirchheims sind unübertrefflich in Lage und Güte; der Boden ist geeignet für alles, was man pflanzt, Weizen, Roggen, Spelz, Gerste und Hafer gedeihen sehr gut; Wein ist auch sehr gut; Kirichen, Birnen und Äpfel sind die Hauptobstsorten die gezogen werden.

Kirchheim a. d. Eck. Geschichte: Es besteht gegenwärtig aus meistens sehr guten Gebäuden, und es sieht alles so aus als wäre es erst in neuerer Zeit gebaut worden; demnach zu urtheilen es auch von den Franzosen unter Louis XIV, als sie Alles in der Pfalz zerstörten, auch zerstört wurde. Das frühere Kirchheim hatte eine Festungsmauer und Thore, wovon noch eines und auch noch ein Theil der Mauer steht.

Einst, während dem Krieg zwischen Deutschland und Frankreich, 1791, so wird es erzählt, verfolgte eine Abtheilung deutscher Kavallerie eine Schwadron Franzosen; die Franzosen sprengten durch das Dorf, der Hirschwirth am oberen Thor machte dasselbe zu, die Franzosen waren in eine Falle gerathen und es entstand ein Gefecht in der Hauptstraße und die Deutschen hätten die Franzosen in Stücke zerhauen und die Franzosen hatten den Hirschwirth auch in Stücke gehauen.

Die Einwohner von Kirchheim a. d. Eck hatten, als die vielen Grafen und Fürsten noch in seiner Nähe regierten, viel zu leiden durch allerlei Steuern und Auflagen, bis zur Zeit Napoleon Bonaparts, der sie alle vertrieb und sind sie auch nicht mehr zurückgekommen. Die gegenwärtige Bevölkerung ist, wie fast überall in der Pfalz, ein freies, lebensfrohes Volk zu nennen.



Greifsw.



## Dreisen.

Dreisen, früher Wohnort von Johannes Ritter und Geburtsort seiner Kinder.

Dreisen, ein sehr schön gelegener und aus guten Gebäuden bestehender Ort, in der Rheinpfalz, Baiern, hat ungefähr 1,000 Einwohner, ist eine protestantische Gemeinde, besitzt eine gute Kirche mit drei Glocken und ein neues Schulhaus. Gelegen an der großen Kaiserstraße, gebaut durch Napoleon, die von Frankfurt am Main bis nach Paris führt. Die Pfimmbach fließt vorbei durch ein schönes Wiesenthal und geht bei Worms in den Rhein; daran sind vier Mühlen gelegen, die zu Dreisen gehören.

Dreisen liegt an der Südseite des Abhanges eines Hügels und ein Theil des Ortes erstreckt sich bis über das Thal. Es liegt ungefähr  $7\frac{1}{2}$  Kilometer oder 5 englische Meilen südöstlich von dem Donnersberg, 2,200 Fuß hoch und ist der höchste Berg der Pfalz und bildet das Ende des Hardtgebirges Bergskette.

Der Donnersberg steht so einzeln hoch da und macht mit seiner mit dichtbestem dunkelgrünem Walde bedeckten östlichen Seite den Eindruck etwas außergewöhnlich Großartiges. Der Verein für Verschönerung hat den größten Theil des Donnersberges durch Anlage schöner Fuß- und Fahrwege und sonstige Verschönerungen zu einem Park gestaltet. Auf der höchsten Stelle des Berges steht ein hoher Aussichtsthurm; von da aus hat man ein Landschaftspanorama wie es selten zu finden ist, das bei klarem Wetter sich über den Rhein erstreckt, zu dem Odenwaldgebirge hinauf bis Heidelberg. Dazwischen fließt der Rhein, wie ein langer, breiter, silberweißer Streifen sieht er aus, dabei steht der Dom zu Worms. Am schönsten aber ist die davorliegende wellenförmige Landschaft mit ihren Streifen von mehrfarbigen grünen Feldern, dabei ist die Umgebung von Dreisen nur und dessen Kirche sichtbar. Seit seiner Verschönerung und mit einem guten Restaurant oben ist der Donnersberg an Sonntagen und Festtagen den Bewohnern der Umgegend zum Vergnügungsplatze geworden. Viele kommen mit der Eisenbahn bis zur nächsten Station und von da an besteigen sie den Berg.

Ackerbau ist die Hauptbeschäftigung der Einwohner Dreisens. Der Boden ist durchschnittlich gut. Weizen, Gerste, Roggen, Hafer und Spelz sind die Hauptsorten, außerdem gerathen Hauf, Flachs und Kartoffel sehr gut; von letzteren werden sehr viele per Bahn verschickt. Viehzucht ist auch bedeutend, seine Wiesen liefern eine Menge gutes Gras und Heu; Obst gedeiht auch sehr gut, doch ist der Weinbau nicht viel. Dreisen hat viele reiche und wohlstehende Familien, der Handel ist nicht sehr bedeutend.



## Der Donnersberg.

Frei hebt in Gottes freier Luft  
 Der Busen sich mit munterm Schlägen,  
 Und jeder Lebensfreude wagt  
 Er frischen Muthes hier entgegen.

Kein Erdenleid, kein Erdenweh  
 Herrscht hier in diesen hohen Räumen;  
 Sein Herz kann ungestört und frei  
 Sich überlassen seinen Träumen.

Bertangend späht der helle Blick  
 Hinans in ungemess'ne Weiten,  
 Und siehet überall ein Meer  
 Von reichen Schätzen sich verbreiten.

Er winkt dir liebend seinen Gruß  
 Und lachzet freudig dir entgegen,  
 Dann eilt er fort, der stolze Rhein,  
 Huldvoll beglückend allerwegen.

Du aber sch weist froh hinab  
 Und siehst voll Stolz in deinen Reichen  
 Reichthum, Zufriedenheit und Glück  
 Trenn'innig sich die Hände reichen.

Dein Haupt, o Berg, steht hell und klar,  
 Wenn unten sich die Wetter thürmen;  
 Des ächten Herrschers würdig Bild,  
 Bleibst du dir gleich in allen Stürmen.

## Breunigweiler.

Breunigweiler ist ein Ort mit 500 Einwohner in der Rheinpfalz, Baiern; er besitzt eine protestantische Kirche mit Glocken, ein geräumiges Schulhaus und zwei Mühlen. Der Hauptbetrieb der Einwohner ist Ackerbau; der Boden ist stellenweise etwas schwer zum pflügen, aber es wachsen auch schwere Früchte da, besonders Weizen, Spelz oder Korn, oder Roggen genannt; in den Thälern wächst reichlich Gras, da gibt es feines Heu, und das macht den Ort geeignet für Viehzucht. Es gab da von jeher sehr reiche und auch mittelmäßig reiche Leute. Die Einwohner sind in der Mehrzahl Protestanten.

Breunigweiler, seine Lage und Umgebung: Ungefähr drei englische Meilen oberhalb Breunigweiler, in einem reizend schönen Wiesenthal, umgeben auf fast

allen Seiten von einem prachtvollen Walde von Buchen und Eichenbäumen, die sich vom Saum der Wiesen hoch in die Höhe erstrecken, ist die entspringende Quelle der Pfirimbach, die mitten durch Breunigweiler fließt. Die Quelle ist nahe zu dem Pfirimmerhof. Die Gemarkung: Das behaute Ackerland liegt meist an leicht steigenden Hügeln bis an den Wald, von dem es von zwei Seiten begrenzt ist. Dieser Wald ist ein Theil des Hardtgebirges, das sich von Süden nach Norden durch die Pfalz erstreckt und mit dem Donnersberg, 2,200 Fuß hoch, seinen Auslauf hat. Der Donnersberg ist nur fünf englische Meilen von Breunigweiler entfernt, man könnte sagen es liegt am Donnersberg. Der Pfälzer Verschönerungs-Verein errichtete Anlagen von prachtvollen Spaziergängen nach allen Richtungen hin, mit Wegweiser und Ruhebänke überall. Dahin machen nicht nur die Breunigweiler, sondern die ganze Umgegend ihre Sonntagsausflüge. Die Aussicht von Breunigweiler nach dem Donnersberg und das Thal hinunter ist sehr schön. Die Einwohner von Breunigweil sind, wie fast überall in der Pfalz, ein gesundes, lebenslustiges, gastfreundliches Volk. Verkehrswege sind eine prachtvolle Landstraße von Standenbühl das Thal hinauf bis Zippersfeld; auch führt eine gute Landstraße nach Birstadt zum Donnersberg. Birstadt ist die nächste Eisenbahnstation.

### An's Vaterland.

Vergißm'einnicht und Rosen blühen  
 Auch hier auf grünen Auen;  
 Der Sonne warme Strahlen sprühen  
 Vom Himmel auch, dem blauen.  
 Es singt die Drossel hier im Wald  
 Ihr Lied von grünen Zweigen  
 Und ladet ein zum Aufenthalt  
 Im Schatten, unter Eichen.  
 Doch wär' selbst hier ein Paradies,  
 Mit allen seinen Freuden,  
 Das Manchen schon vergessen ließ  
 Vom Vaterland das Scheiden.  
 Muß jetzt auch unser ganzes Sein  
 Dem Lande angehören  
 Das uns von mancher Sorg' und Pein  
 Die Freiheit konnt bescheeren.  
 Doch liebe, schöne Heimath du,  
 Wie könnt' man dich vergessen?  
 Sätt' selbst man fern in Glück und Ruh'  
 Auf gold'nem Thron gesessen.

## Genealogie der Familie Ritter.

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### Woher kommt und was bedeutet der Name Ritter?

Der Name Ritter ist wohl so alt wie die Geschichte Deutschlands. Wo derselbe entstanden, ist dem Verfasser dieses Werkes nicht möglich gewesen, zu ergründen, wie es ihm auch nicht gelang, auszufinden, aus welcher Gegend und aus welchem Orte die ersten Vorfahren unserer Familie kamen.

Den Namen Ritter führten Leute, die als Reiter zu Pferd erschienen und das waren, wie uns die Geschichte lehrt, die freien Männer, die zum Unterschied von den Hörigen, die ihnen unterthänig waren, beritten in den Krieg zogen. Aus diesen freien Männern bildeten sich im Laufe der ersten Jahrhunderte des Mittelalters die Ritter, ebenso wie sich in Frankreich aus den berittenen freien Männern der Chevalier (cheval=das Pferd) gestaltete. Die Kreuzzüge ließen dann den Unterschied zwischen Rittern und Hörigen noch mehr hervortreten und damals entstanden auch die Wappen der verschiedenen Ritter und ihrer Familien, auf denen man noch heute aus den in denselben zu findenden Kreuzen, Halbmonden und Sternen erkennen kann, daß die Vorfahren an den Kreuzzügen theilgenommen. Damals kämpften die Ritter zu Pferde mit Schwert und Speer und zu ihrem Schutze trugen sie Panzer und Schild. Die Erfindung von Schießpulver und Schießwaffen machte mehr und mehr die Panzer nutzlos und überflüssig, wie sie überhaupt die gesamte Kriegsführung änderten, aber die Ritter blieben und ihr sozialer Stand wurde immer mächtiger und prominenter. Mit dem Stande eines Ritters war persönliche Tapferkeit, Furchtlosigkeit und Treue identisch und diese galten Jahrhunderte lang als die vorzüglichsten Eigenschaften eines Ritters. In den Kreuzzügen hatten sich die verschiedenen Ritterorden gegründet, von denen verschiedene hohes Ansehen und Macht erlangten und von denen ja einige noch heute bestehen. Gleichen Rang mit den Rittern nahmen die Knights Englands ein, obgleich der Ursprung derselben nicht auf derselben Stufe stand, wie derjenige der deutschen Ritter und der französischen Chevaliers, denn während diese von freien, unabhängigen Männern gebildet wurden, scheinen die englischen Knights (Knechte) in einem abhängigen Verhältnisse zu ihren Lehnsherren gestanden zu haben. Lange nach dem Mittelalter entstanden dann die aus Leuten aller Klassen gebildeten

Orden, deren Mitglieder ebenfalls den Namen Ritter erhielten und von denen man die Eigenschaften verlangte, die mit dem Begriffe Ritter synonym waren. Von diesen sind ja auch viele nach Amerika verpflanzt resp. hier gegründet worden. Die hier bestehenden Tempel-Ritter, eine Klasse der Freimaurer, sind die Nachfolger der im Mittelalter in Europa gegründeten Tempelritter, während die Pythias, die Columbus, die Nothe Adler &c. hier entstandene Orden sind, von deren Mitgliedschaft aber ebenfalls die edlen, vorstehend erwähnten Eigenschaften der Ritter unzertrennlich sind.

### Woher kommen die Vorfahren der Familie Ritter?

Dem Schreiber dieser Genealogie ist es ebenfalls unmöglich gewesen, zu ergründen, woher unsere Vorfahren kamen, als sie sich in der Rhein-Pfalz niederließen. Er weiß nur daß die Familie zur Zeit seines Großvaters und Vaters mit vielen der angesehensten und prominentesten Familien des Landes verwandt war, hat aber nicht ausfinden können, woher diese Verwandtschaft datirt; da bei einem großen Brande des Rathhauses von Altleiningen alle Bücher und Akten zerstört worden waren, die ihm vielleicht die nöthige Aufklärung hätten geben können, so waren ihm weitere Nachforschungen unmöglich.

Herr H. Kärcher, der gegenwärtige Besitzer und Bewohner des Neuhoofs hat auf meine Veranlassung alle nur möglichen Versuche gemacht, mehr über die Vorgeschichte unserer Familie zu erfahren, und er schrieb mir darauf in 1890, daß er zu der Ueberzeugung gekommen sei, daß die Familie Ritter schon im 17. Jahrhundert im Neuhoof gewohnt hat. Worauf er diese Ueberzeugung basirt, kann ich nicht sagen, es sei denn auf einen Eckstein oder eine sonstige Inschrift an oder in den Gebäuden, die mir nicht bekannt ist. Der Schreiber dieser Zeilen sah einen 5 Fuß langen und 3 Fuß hohen Wassertrog, der aus einem rothen Sandstein gehauen war und der die Buchstaben C. Ritter und C. Müller, sowie die Jahreszahl 1792 eingemeißelt auf der einen Seite zeigte. Dieser Trog erhielt seinen Wasserzufuhr aus einer Leitung, die aus einer Quelle auf dem Berge an der Südseite des Thales kam, in dem der Neuhoof liegt.

Aus dem Munde meines Vaters hörte ich, daß unsere Familie aus Süd-Deutschland, aus Baden oder Württemberg, nahe der Grenze der Schweiz kam, aber wann sie jenes Land verließen, ist mir nicht bekannt.

Hiermit schließe ich meine Erklärung über Namen und Ursprung unserer Familie, resp. dieses besonderen Theiles derselben, die uns angeht, nachdem ich Alles mitgetheilt, was mir zu erforschen möglich gewesen ist.

## Register der Nachkommen von Georg Christian Ritter.

### Georg Christian Ritter,

Geboren im Neuhof, 1735.

Unser Ur-Großvater Georg Christian Ritter, der 1735 geboren wurde, war der Eigenthümer eins werthvollen Besizthums von 200 Ackern, genannt „der Neuhof,“ in einem Thale des Karlsbach in der Nähe der Stadt Leiningen in der Rhein-Pfalz in Bayern, Deutschland. Derselbe war verheirathet und es wurden ihm zwei Kinder geboren: ein Sohn Georg Christian, 1760, und eine Tochter Dorethea Magdalena, 1763. Georg Christian jr. heirathete Eva Schreiner von Wattenheim und Dorethea Magdalena verheirathete sich mit Christian Müller. Nach dem Tode des Vaters wurde sein Besizthum zu gleichen Theilen unter die beiden Kinder vertheilt und ein jedes erhielt je 100 Acker Land und die Hälfte der Gebäude des Neuhof. Diese Gebäude bildeten ein großes Geviert mit einem in der Mitte liegenden großen Hof und zwei Wohnhäuser in denselben standen sich gegenüber, mit der Front nach auswärts gerichtet, an der Ost- und an der Westseite. Das eine nach Osten gerichtete, von dem man eine schöne Aussicht ins Thal genießt, erhielt Georg Christian Ritter, mein Großvater, und in diesem wurden all' seine Kinder geboren. Die Gebäude des Neuhof liegen auf einer Erhöhung, von welcher aus man das Thal des Karlsbach, die Stadt Altleiningen und die mächtigen Ruinen des alten Schlosses der Fürsten von Leiningen sieht.

### Georg Christian Ritter,

Geboren 1760 im Neuhof.

Georg Christian Ritter und seine Frau Eva, geborene Schreiner, hatten beträchtliches Vermögen ererbt und wurden damals als sehr wohlhabend angesehen, aber die lange anhaltenden Kriege zwischen Deutschland und Frankreich brachten fürchterliche Lasten für alle Bewohner der Rhein-Pfalz und auch unsere Großeltern hatten schwer unter denselben zu leiden. Das Land wurde von den feindlichen Heeren überschwemmt und deren Soldaten fouragierten, plünderten und verwüsteten.





NEUHOF—Residence of the Grand Sires of the Ritter Family. Stamm-Grund der Familie Ritter.





Diese schreckliche Heimsuchung dauerte von 1789 bis 1817. Dann hatten Miß-  
ernten in den Jahren 1816 und 1817 eine schwere Hungersnoth im Gefolge.  
Mittlerweile lebten unsere Großeltern friedlich und glücklich mit einander und es  
wurden ihne viele Kinder geboren. Die vorerwähnte Heimsuchung begann mit  
dem Kriege unter der französischen Republik, als die Soldaten derselben 1789 nach  
Elsaß und Lothringen zogen und Freiheit, Gleichheit und Brüderlichkeit proklamir-  
ten. Diese Brüderlichkeit bethätigten sie dadurch, daß sie schwere Steuern aufer-  
legten und Alles mitnahmen, woran sie Hand legen konnten. Dies dauerte so  
lange, bis sie von den Preußen und Oesterreichern wieder zurückgetrieben wurden.

Ich will hier einen Vorfall erzählen, der sich damals ereignete. An einem  
trübem, schneereichen Winter-Nachmittage in der Zeit, in welcher die Franzosen das  
Thal von Leiningen, in dem der Neuhof liegt, besetzt hielten, kamen die Preußen  
und Oesterreicher, besetzten einen hohen Hügel an der Nordseite und eröffneten ein  
lebhaftes Artilleriefeuer auf die Franzosen. Die Franzosen zogen sich darauf nach  
dem Hügel südlich vom Neuhof zurück und antworteten mit ihren Kanonen. Da-  
durch kam der Neuhof, der auf einem Hügel zwischen beiden Zweigen des Thales  
liegt, in die direkte Schußlinie dieses Artillerie-Duells. Großvater und Groß-  
mutter Ritter riefen nun ihre Kinder zusammen und eilten mit diesen nach einem  
ca. 500 Yards entfernten Walde, um ihr Leben zu retten. Wie in Deutschland  
üblich, trug Großmutter Ritter ihren Säugling, oder Baby, in einem Bettkissen,  
aber als sie eine geschützte Stelle im Wald in Sicherheit erreicht hatten, machte sie  
die Entdeckung, daß das Baby während der Flucht aus dem Kissen gerutscht und  
wahrscheinlich auf den Schnee gefallen war. In ihrer großen Aufregung, Angst  
und Hast hatte sie das nicht eher bemerkt. Großvater und Großmutter eilten nun  
auf demselben Wege zurück und bald fanden sie ihr Baby unbeschadet und brachten  
dasselbe in Sicherheit. Und das Lager auf dem frischen, weichen Schnee hatte  
demselben nichts geschadet, denn es wurde gesund und stark und lebte bis zu einem  
hohen Alter. Glücklicherweise wurde der Neuhof durch diese Kanonnade nicht son-  
derlich beschädigt.

Nachdem die Franzosen zurückgetrieben worden waren, kamen als ihre Nach-  
folger die Oesterreicher in das Thal und die zu denselben gehörigen wilden Horden  
der Kroaten, Slavonier etc. Als Onkel Müller sie kommen sah, rief er voll  
Freude: „Jetzt kommt unser deutscher Bruder!“ Aber leider mußte er seinen  
Irrthum bald einsehen, denn sobald diese Bande in den Neuhof eingedrungen war,  
riß sie den Bewohnern die Schuhe von den Füßen und die Kleider vom Leibe.

Im Jahre 1800 übernahm Napoleon Bonaparte die Regierung von Frank-  
reich und annectirte die Pfalz und dann wurden Großvater Ritter's Söhne für

die französische Armee ausgehoben. Lorenz, Philip und Johannes mußten ungefähr 1810 in die Armee eintreten. Die Regimenter, zu denen sie gehörten, wurden im Februar 1812 nach Rußland commandirt. Johannes, mein Vater, lag damals krank im Hospital in Boulogne am Meere, am englischen Kanal belegen, er konnte daher nicht mit seinem Regimente marschiren. Aber im Mai wurde er mit einem aus Reconvalescenten bestehenden Bataillon seinem Regimente nachgesandt. Als sie im September die russische Grenze erreichten, traf die Nachricht ein, daß Moskau niedergebrannt worden sei und daß Napoleon sich auf dem Rückzuge befinde. Meines Vaters Regiment wurde dann nach Festung Magdeburg gesandt, wo sie blieben, bis Napoleon nach Frankreich zurückgetrieben und dann Friede geschlossen wurde. Sie kehrten 1814 nach Hause zurück.

Während all dieser Jahre, von 1789 bis 1814, hatten Großvater und Großmutter Mitter in beständiger Furcht und Angst gelebt, da sie nie wußten, wann ihre Kinder unter die Soldaten gesteckt oder ein Theil ihres Eigenthums als Kriegs-Contribution in Anspruch genommen werden würde. So schlimm aber auch diese Jahre gewesen, es standen ihnen noch schlimmere Zeiten bevor.

### **Eine schwere Zeit der Noth.**

Im Jahre 1816 hatten sie eine reiche und schöne Ernte in Aussicht, aber als die Erntezeit herankam, wurde ganz Europa von schwerem Regen heimgesucht, so daß sie nur sehr wenig von ihren Früchten einernnten konnten. Doch hatten unsere Großeltern genug geerntet, um bis zum nächsten Jahre zu reichen, wo dann eine schwere Zeit der Noth hereinbrach. Die erste Hälfte des Jahres 1817 ist als eines der größten Nothjahre in der Geschichte bekannt und damals erlagen in den verschiedenen Theilen Europa's Tausende dem Hungertode. Aber 1818 war für unsere Großeltern noch schlimmer; es brach in ihren Stallungen eine Viehseuche aus und sie verloren all' ihr Rindvieh, ca. 25 Stück. Sie ließen dann ihre Stallungen reinigen und desinfiziren und kauften neues Rindvieh, aber auch dieses erlag derselben Seuche. Nun wurden alle Stallungen renovirt, gereinigt und desinfizirt und wiederum wurde ein neuer Rindviehstand angeschafft, aber auch dieser wurde von der Seuche dahingerafft. Unsere Großeltern waren durch diese schweren Heimfuchungen erschreckt und völlig entmuthigt, umso mehr da sie durch dieselben in schwere Schulden gerathen waren, und es wurde ihnen klar, daß sie Etwas thun mußten, um sich, ihre Familie und ihr Eigenthum zu retten.

### **Es kommt Hilfe und eine neue Heimath.**

Um diese Zeit kam ein Freund meines Großvaters, ein Herr Neu, nach dem Neuhoj. Derselbe war soeben aus russisch Polen zurückgekehrt, wohin er auf eine

Einladung der russischen Regierung gegangen war, um von polnischen Edelleuten im Stiche gelassenes Land zu übernehmen. Er war der Einladung gefolgt und hatte drei Stück Land von je 100 Acker auf 20 Jahre in Pacht erhalten, für so gut wie keinen Pachtzins. Er suchte nun Freunde zu seinen Nachbarn und offerirte eines dieser drei Landstücke meinem Großvater und dieser nahm diese Tfferte an. Mein Großvater verkaufte nun sein Eigenthum und 1819 zog er nach Polen und ergriff Besitz von dem für ihn von Herrn Neu ausgesuchten Land.

Dasselbe lag ungefähr 20 Meilen von der Stadt Warschau, der Hauptstadt Polens, im Thale der Weichsel und gehörte zur Stadt Gunzig. Mit den Familien unseres Großvaters und des Herrn Neu ging noch eine andere Familie aus der Pfalz nach Polen. Aber nicht die ganze Familie unseres Großvaters ging mit nach Polen, denn Lorenz Philip, Johannes und John Philip blieben in der Pfalz, die anderen sieben Kinder aber gingen mit ihren Eltern nach Polen, doch blieb Christian dort nur ein Jahr und kam dann in Gesellschaft des Herrn Neu wieder zurück, der in seiner alten Heimath Geschäfte zu reguliren hatte. Christian ging nie wieder nach Polen zurück.

Die Entfernung vom Neuhof bis nach Gunzig ist ungefähr 700 englische Meilen. Damals gab es noch keine Dampfboote und Eisenbahnen und sie mußten die lange Reise in ihrem Wagen und auf meist sehr schlechten Wegen zurücklegen. Die Reise war eine sehr langsame und langwierige und die Reisenden hatten sehr viele und große Beschwerden zu ertragen, aber sie kamen schließlich glücklich an ihrem Bestimmungsorte an und ließen sich in der Stadt Gunzig nieder, wo sie bis zum Ende ihres Lebens verblieben. Mein Großvater starb daselbst 1830, die Großmutter 1850. Ihre Kinder waren sämmtlich verheirathet.

Ich erinnere mich, daß wir 1844 einen Brief von Onkel Georg Heinrich erhielten, in dem er meldete, daß die Großmutter gesund sei und daß sie 44 Enkel und 5 Urenkel habe, und da zu derselben Zeit ihre in Deutschland lebenden vier Söhne 23 Kinder hatten, so waren dies zusammen 73 Enkel und 5 Urenkel. Onkel Georg Heinrich sandte 1846 einen weiteren Brief, ich kann mich aber nur erinnern, daß er schrieb, daß die Großmutter noch am Leben sei. Wenn ich mich recht erinnere, sagte mir Onkel Christian Ritter einst, daß er später einen Brief erhielt, in dem gemeldet wurde, meine Großmutter sei 1850 gestorben. Ich habe oft bei Leuten, die aus Polen kamen, nachgeforscht, aber Niemand hatte von unsern dortigen Verwandten gehört und konnte mir Etwas über dieselben mittheilen.

### Georg Christian Ritter.

Georg Christian Ritter war 1760 und seine Frau Eva, geborene Schreiner, 1768 geboren. Sie verheiratheten sich 1786 und aus dieser Ehe entsprossen folgende Kinder :

1. Lorenz Philip, geboren 1788.
2. Christian, geboren 12. Juni 1790.
3. Johannes, geboren 2. Mai 1792.
4. Magdalena, geboren in 1796.
5. John Philip, geboren 24. Juni 1801.
6. Georg Heinrich, geboren 15. Januar 1803.
7. Adam Georg, geboren 7. März 1806.
8. Heinrich,        {
9. Barbara,         { Zwillinge, geboren 9. September 1807.
10. Dorothea, geboren 9. Juli 1809.
11. Simon, geboren 12. September 1812.

Wie schon früher gemeldet, wanderten alle diese Kinder, mit Ausnahme der ältesten vier Söhne, mit ihren Eltern im Jahre 1818 nach russisch Polen aus und ließen sich in dem kleinen Orte Gunzig nieder.

Ich nehme nun den Zweig der Familie Ritter auf, der in der Pfalz verblieb : Lorenz Philip, Johannes, John Philip und Christian. Die drei Erstgenannten blieben in der Pfalz und gingen nie nach Rußland, während Christian mit seinen Eltern dorthin ging, aber nach einem Jahre nach der Pfalz zurückkehrte. Jeder dieser vier Brüder suchte sein Glück auf eigene Faust und arbeitete gegen Lohn in verschiedenen Stellen in der Pfalz, mit Ausnahme des jüngsten, John Philip, der bei seinem Onkel Valentin Schreiner, einem Bruder der Großmutter Ritter, in Breunigweiler wohnte. Onkel Valentine Schreiner hatte einen großen Landbesitz und Johann Philip half ihm sieben Jahre lang bei der Cultivirung desselben, dann heirathete er Katharina Schreiner, die Tochter seines Onkels.

**Lorenz Philip Ritter.**

**Ältester Sohn von Georg Christian Ritter, geboren im Neuhoj 1788.**

Lorenz Philip Ritter, der älteste Sohn von Georg Christian und Eva Ritter, heirathete und lebte in Abisheim in der Rheinpfalz in Bayern, Deutschland. Seine Frau hatte ein beträchtliches Vermögen ererbt. Er betrieb ein Transportgeschäft, beförderte Güter, vorzüglich Silbersand, nach einer ca. 30 Meilen westlich in der Rheinpfalz belegenen Glasfabrik und brachte dafür Glaswaaren nach Mannheim zurück. Er war in seinem Geschäft sehr erfolgreich bis die erste Eisenbahn gebaut wurde. Seine Frau starb im Jahre 1846 und er zog sich vom Geschäft zurück und lebte mit einer seiner Töchter, die verheirathet war und in Mannheim wohnte, wo er starb.

Lorenz Philip Ritter hatte drei Söhne und drei Töchter: Philip, Christian und Conrad; Eva, Magdalena und Katharina. Diese sechs Kinder blieben in Deutschland mit Ausnahme des zweiten Sohnes Christian, der 1853 nach Amerika kam.



### Christian B. Ritter,

Zweiter Sohn des Lorenz Philip Ritter, geboren in Albißheim.

Christian Ritter wanderte 1853 aus Mannheim in die Vereinigten Staaten ein. Er lebte zuerst in Norwich, N. Y., wo er Lizzie Weber heirathete. Dann kam er nach Philadelphia und war zuerst als Polirer von Messerwaaren beschäftigt, aber während der letzten 10 Jahre seines Lebens war er in dem Frucht Präserven Geschäft seines Veters Philip J. Ritter engagirt. Er starb im September 1885. Christian hatte einen Sohn und vier Töchter:

Delia, geb. 1858, die W. Vandergrift heirathete, hatte mit demselben acht Kinder.

Lizzie, geb. 1860, heirathete Horace Williams. Sie hatten keine Kinder.

Caroline, geb. 1862, verheirathet an H. Wambold, keine Kinder.

George, unverheirathet.

Louise, unverheirathet.

Delia, die älteste Tochter von Christian B. Ritter, heirathete am 30. August 1876, den Wm. H. Vandergrift in Frankford, Philadelphia. Seit seiner Verheirathung war Herr Vandergrift fast fortwährend im Geschäft des Veters seiner Frau, Philip J. Ritter, als Verkäufer thätig. Das Paar hat jetzt acht Kinder, die sämmtlich am Leben sind:

George B., geb. 5. September 1878.

William H., geb. 6. April 1882.

Elizabeth, geb. 18. Februar 1884.

Clarence W., geb. 23. Juli 1888.

Jennie M., geb. 26. März 1893.

Florence, geb. 2. August 1894.

Warren C., geb. 5. Juni 1896.

Delia, geb. 4. April 1899.

George H. Vandegrift, der älteste Sohn, wurde Buchdrucker und betreibt jetzt erfolgreich eine eigene Job-Druckerei. Er ist verheirathet und hat zwei Kinder.

William H. Vandergrift, der zweite Sohn, ist Verkäufer bei seinem Vetter Philip J. Ritter.

## Christian Ritter.

**Zweiter Sohn von Georg und Eva Ritter, geboren 1790 im Neuhof.**

Christian Ritter wurde am 12. Juni 1790 im Neuhof bei Altleiningen geboren und erhielt seine Schulbildung in Altleiningen. Nachdem er die Schule verlassen, arbeitete er auf dem Gute seines Vaters, bis dieser mit seiner Familie nach russisch Polen auswanderte. Er ging mit nach Polen, doch gefiel es ihm dort nicht und er blieb nur ein Jahr, worauf er nach seiner alten Heimath in der Rheinpfalz, Deutschland, zurückkehrte. Auf seiner Rückreise hatte er mancherlei Beschwerden zu ertragen, denn er hatte die ganze 700 Meilen lange Strecke zu Fuß zurückzulegen, wobei er öfters in den Wäldern übernachtete, mit einem Stein als Kopfkissen.

Nachdem Christian in seiner alten Heimath angekommen, arbeitete er in der Mahl-Mühle des Herrn Sebastian Hammel in Kirchheim an der Eck. Sein Arbeitgeber setzte großes Vertrauen in ihn und er wurde bald der Geschäftsführer der Mühle, ein Vertrauensposten, den er eine Anzahl von Jahren inne hatte. Er sparte hier seinen Verdienst und erwarb sich eine ansehnliche Geldsumme. Während dieser Zeit machte Christian die Bekanntschaft der Philippine Oswald, des einzigen Kindes von Heinrich und Marie Oswald, und heirathete dieselbe. Ihre Heimath und ihr Eigenthum lag direkt neben der Mühle.

Nach seiner Verheirathung wandte sich Christian dem Getreidehandel zu, er kaufte und verkaufte Getreide, wobei er dasselbe nach den großen Märkten in entfernten Städten transportirte. Als dieses Geschäft nach mehreren Jahren aufhörte, ein Gewinn bringendes zu sein, gab er dasselbe auf und wandte sich der Land- und Obstkultur zu. Er hatte Land gekauft und auch gepachtet und mit dem, was seine Frau ererbt, hatten sie genug von den Gütern dieser Welt, um sehr angenehm zu leben.

Christian Ritter war 5 Fuß 7 Zoll groß, breitschulderig und hatte einen wohlproportionirten Körper; er hatte einen dunklen Teint, dunkles Haar und dunkle Augen. Sein Gesicht war rund und voll und hatte stets einen freundlichen Ausdruck. Er war gutmüthig, jovial und in seinen Handlungsweisen stets reell; ein offener, freigesinnter Bürger und ein treuer, gewissenhafter, religiöser Gatte und Vater.

Philippine Oswald, die Gattin des hier geschilderten Christian Ritter, war in Kirchheim an der Eck am 8. Januar 1810 geboren. Sie besuchte die Schule in Kirchheim und da sie sehr aufgeweckt war, lernte sie schnell Alles, was dort zu lernen war. Als sie 14 Jahre alt war, wurde sie in der protestanti-

schen Kirche in Kirchheim confirmirt. Nachdem sie die Schule verlassen, unterstützte sie ihre Mutter in der Haushaltung bis zum Alter von 18 Jahren, in dem sie sich mit Christian Ritter verheirathete. Ihr eheliches Leben war ein sehr glückliches; Philippine war eine gute Christin und eine gewissenhafte, freundliche und energische Frau. Sie war eine vorzügliche Haushälterin und eine gute Helferin ihres Gatten.

Dieses Paar hatte sechs Kinder. Das älteste, ein Knabe Namens Heinrich, starb schon im Alter von vier Jahren. Die anderen, vier Söhne und eine Tochter, blieben am Leben; die vier Söhne verließen die alte Heimath und suchten ihr Glück in der Neuen Welt. Die Tochter Elisabeth blieb bei ihren Eltern.

Die Kinder von Christian und Philippine Ritter sind:

Jakob Ritter, geboren 1. Juli 1830.

Christian Ritter, geboren 1832.

Heinrich B. Ritter, geboren 17. September 1835.

Philipp Johann Ritter, geboren 17. September 1837.

Elisabeth Ritter, geboren 8. Januar 1845.

Christian Ritter starb am 24. Juni 1863. Im Jahre 1864 besuchte Heinrich Ritter aus Amerika seine Mutter und seine Schwester. Dieser Besuch brachte Philippine auf den Gedanken, daß es, nachdem ihr Gatte gestorben, besser und angenehmer für sie sein würde, wenn sie auch nach dem Lande ginge, in dem die meisten ihrer Kinder leben. Sie beschloß daher, mit ihrem Sohne nach Amerika zu gehen und ihre Tochter und Bruder willigten ein mitzugehen. Sie verkauften nun ihre gesammte Habe in Deutschland und in kurzer Zeit hatten sie alles Nöthige erledigt und am 11. Januar 1865 fuhr der Dampfer von Europa ab, der Philippine und den Rest ihrer Familie nach New York brachte.

Nach einem kurzen Besuche bei ihrem Sohne Heinrich und seiner Frau, bei ihrer Schwägerin Frau Johannes Ritter und bei den Familien ihrer Schwäger Philip J. und Christian Ritter in Philadelphia, reisten sie nach ihrer zukünftigen Heimath bei Hamilton, Ohio. Sie war nun glücklich, alle ihre Kinder wieder um sich zu haben. Ihre Tochter Elisabeth verheirathete sich dann bald mit Adam Hammel und Philippine Ritter schlug ihre Wohnung bei ihnen auf.

Philippine Oswald-Ritter erfreute sich, nachdem sie Kirchheim verlassen hatte, einer besseren Gesundheit, wie je vorher. Das Asthma, an dem sie so lange Jahre gelitten, war durch die Ozeanreise kurirt worden. Philippine war eine große, wohlgebaute Frau von dunklem Teint, hatte dunkles Haar und Augen und ein wohlgeformtes ovales Gesicht mit einem milden, geistigen Ausdruck.

## Jakob Ritter,

**Sohn von Christian und Philippine Ritter, geboren in Kirchheim an der Eck.**

Jakob Ritter erhielt seine Schulbildung in Kirchheim an der Eck und da er ein gutes Gedächtniß hatte und sehr fleißig war, so erlangte er schnell die nöthige Schulbildung, so daß er mit 14 Jahren confirmirt werden und die Schule verlassen konnte. Er half dann seinem Vater in der Getreide-, Wein- und Obst-Kultur und wurde bald ein tüchtiger Landwirth. Im Alter von 18 Jahren ging er nach der Neuen Welt, um sein Glück zu suchen. Er fuhr mit einem Segelschiffe nach New York und reiste von dort nach Butler County, Ohio, wo er bald Beschäftigung in dem Berufe fand, den er erlernt hatte. Er arbeitete hier für verschiedene Farmer zu solchen Löhnen, wie sie damals den neu Eingewanderten bezahlt wurden.

1855 besuchte er seine Eltern in Kirchheim und 1856 kehrte er nach den Vereinigten Staaten zurück. Auf seinem Wege nach dem Westen besuchte er seinen Onkel, Tante und Vettern in Philadelphia, und kehrte dann nach Butler County, O., zurück, wo er sich wieder mit der Bearbeitung einer Farm beschäftigte, zuerst für andere und später für seine eigene Rechnung, indem er sich eine Farm pachtete. Er verheirathete sich 1860 und setzte sein Geschäft an verschiedenen Orten fort, bis er schließlich seine jetzige Farm von 125 Aekern kaufte, die drei Meilen nördlich von Seven Mile Station, Butler County, Ohio, wunderschön gelegen ist. Er und seine Familie leben wohl seit 25 Jahren auf dieser Farm und befinden sich in angenehmen Verhältnissen. Sie haben ein sehr hübsches Haus mit einer schönen Umgebung.

Jakob Ritter hat dunkeln Teint, große dunkle Augen, dunkles oder schwarzes Haar und ein ovales Gesicht mit angenehmen, intellegentem Ausdruck. Er ist ein gütiger Gatte und Vater, überhaupt ist er wohlwollend gegen Alle. Er ist 5 Fuß 9 Zoll groß, wohl proportionirt, wiegt 175 Pfund und ist ein starker, robuster Mann.

M a g d a l e n a, Jakob Ritter's Frau, ist ihrem Gatten eine brave Gattin, ihren Kindern eine gute Mutter und gegen Alle gutherzig. Sie unterstützt ihren Gatten wacker in all seinen Unternehmungen und half demselben durch strikte Oekonomie und gute Wirthschaft zu einem Erfolge. Sie hatten 14 Kinder, von denen 7 in der Kindheit starben. Die noch lebenden Kinder sind :

Edward, geboren am 13. März 1862. Er heirathete, seine Ehe ist aber kinderlos. Er betreibt ein Hotel in Cincinnati.

Henry, geboren am 5. November 1863. Er blieb unverheirathet und bewirthschaftete in Gemeinschaft mit seinem Bruder Emil die Farm seines Vaters bis zu seinem Tode, im Jahre 1904.

Amelia, oder Emily, geboren am 2. November 1866. Sie verheirathete sich mit John Mugsburger, der 1866 in Ohio geboren ward. Sie leben auf der Pleasant View Stock Farm in Preble County, O., und haben ein Kind: Walter Mugsburger, geboren am 26. Februar 1897, der bis jetzt der einzige Enkel von Jakob und Magdalena Ritter ist.

Emil, geboren am 21. Februar 1871. Er ist unverheirathet und bewirthschaftet gemeinschaftlich mit seinem Bruder Henry die Farm seines Vaters.

Ada, geboren am 5. Oktober 1872. Sie verheirathete sich mit John S. Cooper, geboren in 1870, in 1898; ihre Ehe ist kinderlos. Sie leben in Chicago, wo Cooper Buchhalter in einem großen Etablissement, für eine Eisenbahn-Combination, ist, wo er für seine ganz vorzügliche Leistungsfähigkeit ein hohes Salair bezieht.

Elizabeth Malinda, geboren am 2. Januar 1877. Sie ist mit Wilbur Dougherty von Preble County, O., verheirathet und sie wohnen auf der Farm seines Vaters, die sie bewirthschaften. Sie hatten ein Kind, das jedoch gestorben ist.

Daniel, geboren am 28. Mai 1878. Er ist noch unverheirathet und lebt in Chicago, wo er Geschäftsführer für ein großes Holzgeschäft ist, das auch eine große Cassh- und Bilderrahmen-Fabrik betreibt. Am 1. Januar 1904 war er 6 Jahre lang in dieser Stelle.

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### Christian Ritter.

**Zweiter Sohn von Christian Ritter, geboren in Kirchheim an der Gl.**

Christian Ritter verheirathete sich mit Frau Schmitt, früher Frä. Löwenberg. Sie wohnten in Butler County, nahe der Stadt Hamilton in Ohio, starben aber jung, mit Hinterlassung einer Tochter. Sie ist verheirathet und wohnt in Hamilton, O., doch bin ich nicht im Stande gewesen, weiteres von ihr in Erfahrung zu bringen.



**Heinrich B. Ritter.**

**Dritter Sohn von Christian und Philippine Ritter, geboren in Kirchheim an der Eck am 17. September 1835.**

Heinrich Ritter erhielt seine Schulbildung in Kirchheim an der Eck und da er sehr aufgeweckt, war er ein guter Schüler, der schnell und gut lernte und stets an der Spitze seiner Klasse stand. Im Alter von 14 Jahren wurde er in der protestantischen Kirche confirmirt und verließ die Schule. Er arbeitete dann auf dem Gute seines Vaters als Landwirth, Wein- und Obstzüchter. Im Alter von 19 Jahren ging er nach der neuen Welt, um hier sein Glück zu suchen, und ging nach Ohio, wo seine Brüder Jakob und Christian lebten. Henry, wie wir ihn nun nach seiner Ankunft in Amerika nennen wollen, arbeitete zwei Jahre auf einer Farm in Ohio, kam aber dann auf Veranlassung seines Veters Philip Ritter nach Philadelphia, um hier das Geschäft eines Confectioner und Ice Cream Machers zu erlernen. In diesem Geschäft aber blieb er in Folge eines Mißverständnisses nur 6 Monate. Nachdem er seinen Vetter verlassen, war er mehrere Jahre lang Straßenbahn-Conductor und Kutscher. Nachdem er diese Thätigkeit aufgegeben, wandte er sich dem Hotels- und Wirthsgeschäft zu, war jedoch in den ersten Jahren nur mäßig erfolgreich. Dann veränderte er jedoch die Lage seines Geschäfts, hatte besseren Erfolg und erwarb sich Vermögen. Er blieb in diesem Geschäft bis zu seinem Tode, 1893.

Henry war viermal verheirathet. Seine vierte Frau starb ein Jahr vor ihm. Er hinterließ zwei Kinder von der zweiten Frau, fünf Kinder von der dritten Frau und drei Kinder von der vierten Frau. Zur Zeit seines Todes war das jüngste Kind drei Jahre alt.

Henry Ritter war 5 Fuß 9 Zoll groß, gut gebaut und von dunklem Teint; er hatte große dunkle Augen und dunkles Haar und Schmirrbart. Er war ein guter Gatte und Vater, gutherzig gegen Jedermann und ließ sich keine Mühe verdrießen, wenn es galt, einem Freunde zu nützen. Er war sehr empfindlich und fest, aber sehr angenehm in seiner Ausdrucksweise. Er war ein sehr angenehmer Gesellschafter, konnte über allerlei sehr gut unterhalten, mußte in angenehmer Weise Geschichten zu erzählen und machte sich dadurch viele Freunde. Er war ein Freimaurer.

Henry's erste Frau hieß Mary Meiers; ihre Ehe blieb kindertlos. Henry's zweite Frau hieß Wilhelmina Hefferich, geboren in Hamburg. Sie heiratheten am 11. Juni 1865 und hatten drei Kinder, von denen jedoch nur zwei am Leben blieben:



Anna Mary, geboren am 28. März 1868 und verheirathet an Charles Zells. Sie haben eine Tochter, die jetzt 17 Jahre alt ist.

Charles, geboren 14. Oktober 1870. Blieb unverheirathet und starb im November 1903.

Henry's dritte Frau war Mary Voigt. Sie hatten fünf Kinder, nämlich: John Gottlieb, geb. 18. Februar 1874. Er ist unverheirathet und ein Verkäufer der P. J. Ritter Conserven Comp.

Dorothea Elisabeth, geboren 3. Juni 1877. Ist unverheirathet.

Philip J., geboren 14. September 1878. Er ist unverheirathet und Clerk für die P. J. Ritter Conserven Comp.

Louise, geboren 4. August 1882. Unverheirathet und bei der P. J. Ritter Conserven Comp. beschäftigt.

Aus Henry's vierter Ehe mit Elisabeth Mary Büchlin entsprangen folgende drei Kinder:

Frederick John, geboren 20. Juni 1886. Derselbe ist Architekt.

William Washington, geboren 24. April 1887.

Germina, geboren 17. August 1890.

### John Philip Ritter.

Vierter Sohn von Christian und Philippine Ritter, geboren den 17. September 1837 in Kirchheim an der Gl.

Derselbe erhielt seine Schulbildung in Kirchheim, wo er vom 6. bis zum 14. Jahre die Schule besuchte. Da er wie seine Brüder aufgeweckt und gelehrig war, wurde er bald ein guter Schüler, der stets an der Spitze seiner Klasse stand; 14 Jahre alt, wurde er in der protestantischen Kirche confirmirt. Nachdem er die Schule verlassen, arbeitete er, wie seine Brüder, auf dem Anwesen seines Vaters und wurde Landwirth, Wein- und Obstzüchter, bis er fast 21 Jahre alt war. 1858 verließ er seine Heimath und seine Eltern und kam nach den Ver. Staaten. Er besuchte zuerst seinen Bruder Heinrich und dessen Frau in Philadelphia, sowie seinen Onkel John Ritter, seine Tante und seine Vettern und blieb während dieses Aufenthaltes in Philadelphia 8 Tage in ihrem Hause.

Von Philadelphia reiste er nach Hamilton, Ohio, welche Reise 5 Tage dauerte. Dort traf er seinen Bruder. Er arbeitete drei Jahre lang auf der Farm des Herrn John Menner, wofür er einen halben Dollar per Tag und Kost und Logis erhielt. Er sparte seinen Verdienst und nach Verlauf von drei Jahren war er im Stande, sich ein Gespann Pferde und Farmgeräthe zu kaufen, eine Farm zu miethen und sein Geschäft für eigene Rechnung zu beginnen. Um sich das Leben angenehmer und erträglich zu machen, lud er seinen Schwager, Hrn. Katharina Benz, ein aus Deutschland zu ihm zu kommen. Diese folgte seiner Einladung, kam hierher und die Verheirathung fand bald statt. Nach drei Jahren harter Arbeit auf der gemietheten Farm, mit der Hilfe seiner Gattin und in Folge der hohen Preise für Farmprodukte, welche in Folge des Rebellionkrieges herrschten, war John Philip im Stande mit seinem Schwager Adam Hammel, der von Deutschland angekommen war, als Partner, eine Farm von 184 Aekern zu kaufen und beide bewirthschafteten dieselbe dann sechs Jahre lang mit großem Erfolg zu allseitiger Zufriedenheit. Am Ende der sechs Jahre wurde die Partnership mit gegenseitiger Zustimmung in Freundschaft aufgelöst. Herr Adam Hammel kaufte sich eine Farm näher an Hamilton, O., belegen, und John Philip kaufte Hammel's Antheil an der Partnerschaft aus und bewirthschaftete die Farm dann bis 1877, wobei er sich auch noch mit Holzhandel befaßte. Im Jahre 1875 gab seine Gesundheit nach und in 1877 sah er sich genöthigt, seine harte Arbeit auf der Farm aufzugeben. Da ihm Philip J. Ritter eine Stelle als Geschäftsführer seines Zweighauses für den Verkauf seiner präservirten Früchte angeboten hatte, nahm er diese Offerte an,

vermietete seine Farm und zog mit seiner Familie nach Cincinnati. Zehn Jahre lang fungirte er dann als Geschäftsführer des Cincinnati Zweiges der Philip. J. Ritter Conserven Comp. Im Jahre 1887 kaufte er dieses Zweigggeschäft in Cincinnati und führte dasselbe dann 13 Jahre lang für eigene Rechnung. Im Jahre 1890 zog sich John Philip Ritter von allen Geschäften zurück und lebte als Privatmann, einen Theil seiner Mußestunden der Wohlthätigkeit widmend.

#### Katharina Benz-Mitter,

die Frau von John Philip Ritter in Cincinnati, wurde am 16. November 1836 in Mindenheim in der Rheinpfalz geboren. Sie kam 1862 nach Ohio und verheirathete sich mit Ritter und ihre Ehe ist eine glückliche. Katharine besitzt einen liebenswürdigen Charakter, ist sehr gutherzig und war stets eine treue Helferin ihres Gatten, und ihre Energie trug in hohem Grade zum Erfolg ihres Gatten bei, so daß sich derselbe auf seinem eigenen Besitz selbstständig machen konnte. Sie lebt jetzt in beschaulicher Ruhe und ruht aus auf den Errungenschaften der früheren Jahre ihrer Ehe. Dieses Paar hat 6 Kinder, die sämmtlich in Cincinnati, O., leben.

1. Mary, geb. 7. Februar 1863. Verheirathet mit Jacob Ludart, 6. September 1893, der 1862 geboren war. Ihre Ehe ist kinderlos.

2. Philippina, geb. 12. Februar 1866. Verheirathet mit Joseph Dumont. Sie haben zwei Töchter, die jetzt 14 und 15 Jahre alt sind.

3. Philip jr., geb. 5. Juni 1869. Er verheirathete sich am 5. Mai 1889 mit Emilie Bishop. Sie haben einen Sohn und drei Töchter: Karl, 13; Metta, 11; Louise, 9 und Jennie, 7 Jahre alt.

4. Adam, geb. 26. März 1871. Er ist seit 1893 verheirathet mit Bertha Steinmann. Sie haben einen Sohn Clifford, geb. in 1895.

5. Louise, geb. 24. Januar 1874. Sie heirathete C. J. Vog, der 1870 geboren ward, am 16. Dezember 1896 und sie haben einen Sohn und eine Tochter: Charlotte, 4 Jahr, und Wilhelm, 2 Jahre alt.

6. Katharina, geb. 6. Februar 1879. Sie heirathete am 10. Juni 1901 William Deckers. Sie haben eine Tochter, Ellen, die 1902 geboren ward.

## Elisabeth Ritter Hammel,

**Tochter von Christian Ritter, geboren in Kirchheim an der Eck.**

Elisabeth Ritter war ein starkes und gesundes Kind. Sie erhielt ihre Schulbildung in der Schule ihres Heimathsorts und da sie eine gute Schülerin war, so lernte sie bald Alles, was sie in dieser Schule lernen konnte. Nach zurückgelegter Schulzeit half sie ihrer Mutter im Haushalt und wurde eine tüchtige Köchin und Haushälterin. Nachdem alle ihre Geschwister nach Amerika gegangen, war sie ein großer Trost und eine Stütze für ihre Eltern. Elisabeth war eine schlanke, hübsche Brünette. Sie hatte große dunkle Augen und dunkles Haar, ein schöngeformtes ovales Gesicht, mit rosigten Wangen und einen Gesichtsausdruck der von innerer Fröhlichkeit zeugte. Sie ist energisch, schnell entschlossen, wie die meisten ihrer Familie, und ist stets zu einer passenden Antwort und zu einem herzhaften Lachen bereit. Sie war das Leben im Hause und die Freude und der Trost ihrer Eltern in deren Lebensabend.

Elisabeth verließ im Januar 1865 ihre Heimath in Kirchheim mit ihrer Mutter und mit ihrem Verlobten, Herrn Adam Hammel und kam nach den Ver. Staaten. Nach einem kurzen Aufenthalt in Philadelphia zogen sie nach Butler County, Ohio. Im Februar desselben Jahres verheirathete sie sich mit Herrn Adam Hammel. Ihr eheliches Leben ist ein sehr glückliches. Ihre Ehe wurde mit zehn Kindern reich gesegnet, drei von denen zehn, drei Söhne und sieben Töchter, noch am Leben sind. Sie ist eine treue gute Frau, die ihrem Gatten eine gute Stütze in all' seinen Unternehmungen war und demselben dadurch zum Erfolge half. Ihren Kindern ist sie eine gute Mutter, die sie gehorchen und sie lieben lehrte.

### Adam Hammel.

Herr Adam Hammel aus Kirchheim an der Eck war der Sohn von M. Hammel, der zu einer Familie gehörte, die zu den intelligentesten und reichsten in Kirchheim gezählt wurde. Er ward 1846 geboren und wurde in der Schule in Kirchheim erzogen, zu deren guten Schülern er gehörte. Nachdem er die Schule verlassen, widmete er sich dem Geschäft seiner Vorfahren und wurde Landwirth. Nach dem Tode seines Vaters verwalteten er und seine Mutter gemeinschaftlich das Anwesen seines Vaters, bis seine Verlobte nach den Ver. Staaten auswanderte. Mit ihr verließ er seine Heimath und kam hierher.

Nachdem er in Ohio angelangt, trat er mit seinem Schwager Johannes Philip Ritter in Partnerschaft — er hatte von seinem Vater beträchtlich geerbt,

was ihn in den Stand setzte, das dazu nöthige Geld prompt einzuzahlen. Diese Partnerschaft dauerte sechs Jahre, worauf Adam Hammel seinen Antheil an seinen Partner und Schwager verkaufte.

Beide Partner hatten während ihrer Partnerschaft beträchtliches Geld verdient und nachdem Hammel seinen Antheil ausverkauft, kaufte er eine Farm von 220 Acker Land nahe Hamilton, Ohio, die er jetzt noch bewirthschaftet. Er war sehr erfolgreich, erntet stets das beste Getreide im Lande und ist außerdem Pferde-, Rindvieh-, Schweine- und Geflügel-Züchter. Er hat sich auf seiner Farm ein großes und feines Backsteinhaus gebaut, in dem die Familie in Comfort lebt. Neben diesem Wohnhause stehen zahlreiche Neben- und Wirthschaftsgebäude und die Umgebung der Farm ist eine schöne.

Adam Hammel ist 5 Fuß 7 Zoll groß und wohlproportionirt. Er hat einen hellen Teint, blaue Augen und blondes Haar. Sein Gesicht ist hübsch, rund und ansprechend. Er ist sehr entschlossen, selbstbewußt und intelligent und wenn nöthig kann er seinen Gedanken durch passende Worte beredeten Ausdruck geben.

Folgende zehn Kinder aus ihrer Ehe sind noch am Leben :

1. Kate, geb. den 28. Januar 1867. Sie verheirathete sich am 4. Februar 1888 mit Wm. Heinzelman. Ihre Ehe ist kinderlos.

2. Adam, geb. 2. Februar 1869. Er verheirathete sich mit Mary Stumpf und dieser Ehe sind vier Kinder entsprungen.

3. Michael, geb. 22. Januar 1871. Er heirathete am 6. Februar 1898 Carrie Smith und sie haben drei Kinder.

4. Frances, geb. 8. März 1873. Sie verheirathete sich mit Clarence Thomas am 9. October 1901. Sie haben eine, jetzt 1 Jahr alte Tochter.

5. Frieda, geb. 1. September 1875 und am 13. Juli 1898 mit Fred. Weiswanger verheirathet. Sie haben einen 4 Jahre alten Sohn.

6. Anna, geb. 12. Dezember 1878. Noch unverheirathet.

7. Hilda, geb. 23. Dezember 1880. Ist unverheirathet.

8. Phillipina Carolina, geb. 2. Februar 1883 ; ist noch unverheirathet.

9. William Frederick, geb. 9. September 1886.

10. Ida Emilia Josephina, geb. 6. Juni 1888.



### Johannes Ritter.

**Dritter Sohn von Georg Christian und Eva Ritter, geboren im Neuhoj, am  
2. Mai 1792.**

Johannes, dritter Sohn von Georg Christian und Eva Ritter, geboren auf dem Neuhoj am 2. Mai 1792. Johannes erhielt seine Schulbildung zu Altleiningen, er besaßte ein sehr gutes Gedächtniß und lernte ohne Mühe alles was dort in der Schule zu lernen war. Als er 14 Jahre alt war wurde er konfirmirt in der Protestantischen Kirche zu Altleiningen und endigte damit seine Schulpflichten, aber nicht sein lernen; er war sehr begierig alles zu lernen was für ihn Wissenswert war und bewahrte es auch in seinem Gedächtniß für zukünftigen Gebrauch. Durch dieses war er später in seinem Leben in der Wissenschaft sehr bewandert und konnte stundenlang Interessantes erzählen über Land und Leute und Erfahrungen ohne daß seine Zuhörer dabei müde wurden, dabei hatte er auch ein heiteres und freundliches Temperament und war sehr beliebt als Gesellschafter.

Johannes hatte auch große liebe für seine Familie und Blutsverwandten, und bei jeder passenden Gelegenheit zeigte er dieses ihnen frohe Stunden zu bereiten, während den gesegneten Zeiten seines geschäftlichen Lebens.

Johannes war ungefähr fünf Fuß acht Zoll groß, von gutem Körpergebau, wog ungefähr 160 Pfund, hatte blaue Augen, helles Haar und helle Hautfarbe; im Ansehen hatte er viel Ähnlichkeit mit seinem Sohn Philip J. Ritter, dem Schreiber dieses Artikels, dem oft gesagt wurde er sehe seinem Vater sehr ähnlich, sah aber seiner Mutter auch sehr ähnlich; alle seine anderen Brüder hatten schwarzes Haar und dunkelbraune Augen. Der Schreiber dieses bedauert daß er kein Bild von ihm besitzt um dasselbe neben der Mutter in diesem Buche einzusetzen.

Johannes arbeitete auf dem Guth seiner Eltern bis er 1811 in die französische Armee eingetreten ist und diente unter Napoleon Bonaparte als Soldat. Sein Regiment lag in Boulogne am Meer, am englischen Kanal. 1812 wurde sein Regiment nach Rußland beordert, aber da Johannes krank war konnte er nicht mit demselben marschiren. Er marschirte dann einige Monate später mit einem andern Regimente ab, dieses kam aber nur bis an die russische Grenze, als die Nachricht von der Niederlage Napoleons in Moskau eintraf und das Regiment nach der Festung Magdeburg zurückbeordert wurde. Napoleon mußte mit seiner sehr schwer mitgenommenen Armee retiriren und auch das Regiment, dem Johannes in Boulogne zugetheilt worden, war fast ganz aufgerieben worden. Aber nichts konnte Napoleon entmuthigen, er zog seine Reserven zusammen und zog mit diesen bis Leipzig, wo im Oktober 1812 die drei Tage währende große Völkerschlacht geschla-



gen und die Armee Napoleon's fast vernichtet wurde. Napoleon zog sich nun mit dem Reste seines Heeres bis über den Rhein zurück und machte erst in Frankreich Halt. Während dieser Zeit wurde Johannes mit seinem Regimente von dem Heere der Verbündeten in der Festung Magdeburg festgehalten. Im Jahre 1813 ging das Heer der Verbündeten über den Rhein und Napoleon wurde mit dem Reste seines Heeres weiter zurückgetrieben, gefangen und schließlich als Gefangener nach der Insel Elba gesandt. Dann wurden auch die in Magdeburg liegenden französischen Truppen heimgelassen, Johannes trat aus denselben aus und kehrte nach Hause zurück.

Nachdem Johannes nach Hause zurückgekehrt, war er in verschiedenen Berufen thätig. Eine zeitlang arbeitete er in einer Mühle des Herrn Valentin Berg in Dreisen und dort wurde er mit Elisabeth Will bekannt, die er dann 1818 heirathete. Er sparte seinen Verdienst und versuchte schließlich sein Glück auf eigene Faust, indem er ein Getreidegeschäft etablirte. Er kaufte Getreide auf und brachte es zum Verkauf nach größeren Marktplätzen. Das Geschäft war ein lohnendes und schließlich konnte er sich Land, ein Haus und Scheuer und die nöthigen Wirthschaftsgebäude anschaffen. Dieses Land und das von seiner Frau ererbte bewirthschaftete er nun erfolgreich und er wurde bald ein tüchtiger Geschäftsmann, angesehen und geachtet von Allen, die ihn kannten. Wegen seiner Geselligkeit, seines jovialen Charakters und seines Freimuths war er allgemein beliebt und schließlich wurde er in den Stadtrath gewählt.

Bei seinem Getreidegeschäft brachte Johannes Ritter aus den größeren Städten Waaren aller Art, sowie Kohle und Holz nach Hause, die er vortheilhaft verkaufte, aber als die Eisenbahnen kamen hörte dieses Geschäft auf, lohnend zu sein. Er kaufte dann größere Mengen von Getreide auf Spekulation, verlor, gerieth dadurch in Schulden und fallirte. Dann wanderte er mit seiner Familie nach Amerika aus. Da er von der englischen Sprache nur wenig verstand, beschloß er, sich unter den Deutsch-Pennsylvaniern niederzulassen, und er that dies und lebte unter denselben bis sein Sohn Philip John sich im Confectionery-Geschäft etablirte und er sich vom Geschäft zurückzog und mit diesem lebte.

Johannes Ritter heirathete, wie schon gesagt, Elisabeth Will, Tochter von Jacob und Elisabeth Will in Dreisen. „Wir alle liebten unsere Mutter und unsere Mutter liebte uns.“ Elisabeth Ritter hatte hellen Teint, blondes Haar, blaue Augen und ein rundes Gesicht und war von mittler Größe. Sie war eine liebe, gute Mutter und eine exemplarische Hausfrau, sehr energisch und ökonomisch. Sie besaß ausgedehnte Kenntnisse in praktischer Medizin und in der Krankenpflege und ihre Hilfe wurde zu Hause, sowie von ihren Nachbarn und Freunden in Noth=

fällen sehr hoch geschätzt. Elisabeth Ritter war ihrem Gatten in seiner geschäftlichen Thätigkeit eine große Hilfe, auch nachdem sie in diesem Lande angekommen waren, denn sie half ihm hier wie sie dies in der alten Heimath gethan hatte. Auch war sie ihrem Sohne Philip J. Ritter, nachdem derselbe sein Geschäft als Confectioner begonnen, gute und werthvolle Hilfe. Ihr Vater war ein Farmer und Brennereibesitzer und besaß genügend Land, um seine Familie in angenehmen Verhältnissen zu erhalten.

Johannes und Elisabeth Ritter hatten dreizehn Kinder, die sämmtlich in Dreisen geboren waren. Nur fünf derselben blieben am Leben, die anderen starben in ihrer Kindheit. Am Leben blieben :

Georg Johannes, geb 1820 ;

Johannes, geb. 26. April 1826 ;

Philip John, geb. 19. October 1832 ;

Katharine, geb. 1834 ;

Christian, geb. 4. April 1844.

Der älteste Sohn, Georg Johannes, blieb in Dreisen und starb dort 1863. Der Rest der Familie kam nach Amerika im Jahre 1886 und ließ sich in Philadelphia nieder.

### Georg Johannes Ritter.

**Ältester Sohn von Johannes und Elisabeth Ritter, geboren 1820 in Dreisen**

Georg Johannes, der älteste Sohn von Johannes und Elisabeth Ritter in Dreisen, verheirathete sich mit Katharina Hambeil in Beidesheim in der Rheinpfalz. Sie lebten in Dreisen und hatten drei Kinder. Auch Georg Johannes war ein Landwirth. Die Kinder dieser Ehe sind :

Susanna, geb. 27. Juli 1846 in Dreisen, verheirathet an Georg Trippel.

Philip Georg, geb. 1848, ist unverheirathet geblieben. Er war lange Jahre im Frucht-Präserven-Geschäft seines Onkels Philip J. Ritter beschäftigt.

Elisabeth, geb. 1851, unverheirathet. Auch sie war im Geschäft ihres Onkels Philip J. Ritter in Philadelphia thätig.

Susanna heirathete, wie schon gesagt, am 10. Januar 1869 den Georg Trippel, der am 24. Juni 1846 in Sickenholm im Großherzogthum Hessen geboren war. Sie leben jetzt auf einer Farm bei Cabool, Missouri. Sie hatten drei Kinder :

Cecilie, geb. 2. April 1870 ;

Elisabeth, geb. 22. Januar 1872, gestorben am 30. Januar 1873 ;

Anna, geb. 7. Februar 1874.

Cecilia, die älteste Tochter von Georg und Susanna Trippel, heirathete am 20. October 1889 den Frederick William Kipp, der am 22. September in Börringhausen in Westphalen geboren ward. Sie lebten zuerst in Cabool und jetzt in Dewitt, Nebraska. Sie haben vier Kinder, von denen die drei ältesten in Cabool, Texas Co., Mo., geboren wurden :

George, geb. 26. Mai 1891 ;

Frederick Wilhelm, geb. 23. October 1893 ;

Anna Susanna, geb. 1. August 1895 ;

Adolph Frederick, geb. 16. August 1898.

Anna Trippel, zweite Tochter von Georg und Susanna Trippel, heirathete am 22. Februar 1898 den Wilhelm Darnauer, der am 6. Juli 1873 in preussisch Minden in Westphalen, Deutschland, geboren ward. Sie haben drei Kinder, die sämmtlich in Cabool, Mo., geboren sind. Eines starb in der Kindheit, die andern sind :

Herman, geb. 13. Dezember 1898 ;

Frederick George, geb. 8. Februar 1901.

### Johannes Ritter.

**Zweiter Sohn von Johannes und Elisabeth Ritter, geboren am 26. April 1826, in Dreisen.**

Johannes Ritter erhielt seine Schulbildung in Dreisen und war ein guter und gelehriger Schüler. Er war zweimal verheirathet, das erste Mal mit Louise Kohnfink aus Hannover, Deutschland. Sie lebten in Philadelphia und hatten 6 Kinder:

1. Mary, geb. 27. Februar 1849. Sie heirathete Chas. Freund, doch blieb ihre Ehe kinderlos.

2. John, geboren am 15. September 1852. Er war zweimal verheirathet: zum ersten Male mit Bessie Fuller aus Decatur, Ill., mit der er einen Sohn hat, der jetzt 21 Jahre alt ist; das zweite Mal mit Ella Blaylock, von der ihm zwei Kinder geboren wurden.

3. Louise, geboren 20. Juni 1857. Sie war dreimal verheirathet: zum ersten Male mit Albert Marshall; zum zweiten Male mit C. Baugher, und zum dritten Male mit A. Goodman. Sie wohnten in Philadelphia, hatten aber keine Kinder.

4. Emma, geboren 18. Juni 1859. Diese starb unverheirathet am 10. Mai 1885.

5. George B., geboren am 1. Juli 1861. Er heirathete Fannie Warner, die am 8. März 1866 geboren ward. Sie leben in New York, haben aber keine Kinder. George B. Ritter führt seit 1882 das Zweiggeschäft der P. J. Ritter Conserve Co. in New York.

6. Christian ist verheirathet und lebt in Jersey City. Er ward am 1. Juni 1867 geboren und verheirathete sich mit Agnes Dwyer, geboren am 7. Dezember 1876, aus welcher Ehe ein Sohn entsprungen ist. Christian ist Verkäufer für seinen Bruder George und seinen Onkel P. J. Ritter.

Johannes Ritters erste Frau starb 1883 und er heirathete dann Mary Orth, welche Ehe jedoch kinderlos blieb.

Johannes Ritter folgte hier verschiedenen Verufen und in einer späteren Zeit seines Lebens leitete er zehn Jahre lang ein Zweiggeschäft seines Bruders Philip J. Ritter in Baltimore. Von dort kam er wieder nach Philadelphia und etablierte ein Retail Grocery Geschäft. Er starb am 1. Juli 1896 und seine Wittwe führt sein Grocery Geschäft weiter.

### Selbst - Biographie von Philip John Ritter,

Drittem Sohn von John und Elisabeth Ritter, geboren am 19. October 1832  
in Dreisen.

Dem Leser dieses Buches diene zur Nachricht, daß ich meine Biographie und die Geschichte meiner Thätigkeit und Erfolge während meines Lebens nicht aus Eitelkeit oder aus Stolz auf meine gerade und ehrliche Handlungsweise gegen meine Mitmenschen geschrieben habe, sondern nur um meinen Nachkommen und Verwandten vor Augen zu führen, daß Ausdauer zum Ziele führt und daß ehrlich am längsten währt.

Meine thätige geschäftliche Laufbahn umfaßt 58 Jahren, von meinem 14. Jahre an gerechnet. Von diesen lernte ich  $7\frac{1}{2}$  Jahre lang mein Geschäft und war verschieden thätig. Im Alter von  $21\frac{1}{2}$  Jahren begann ich meine geschäftliche Thätigkeit auf meine eigene Rechnung. Wenn der Leser nur einige Minuten nachdenken und überlegen wird, dann wird er erkennen, wie viele Dinge man thun und mit wie vielen Personen man zusammentreffen kann in solch einer langen und geschäftigen Laufbahn und in einem Geschäft, das fast auf alle Theile der Welt ausgedehnt worden ist. Der Name Philip J. Ritter steht gut und günstig vor den Augen seiner Mitmenschen und wo immer derselbe bekannt, ist mit demselben der Begriff einer ehrlichen Geschäftsführung und die vorzügliche Güte seiner Waaren verbunden.

Der Grund, aus welchem ich zur Aufzeichnung des Thun und Treibens meines Lebens und meiner geschäftlichen Thätigkeit so viel Papier gebrauche, ist der, daß ich so viel zu schreiben habe und mich nicht kürzer fassen kann, um nicht Undeutliches und Unvollkommenes zu liefern, und zugleich dem Leser vor Augen zu führen, was ein Mensch erreichen kann, wenn er ein klares Verständniß von dem hat, was er im Leben erzielen will. Willenskraft, ehrliche Absicht und Beharrlichkeit müssen einen Erfolg für alle Unternehmungen machen, die man beginnt. Man kann Großes in einer verhältnißmäßig kurzen Zeit erreichen, wenn man die Energie und den festen Willen hat, wie solche dem Verfasser von der Natur verliehen worden war.

Philip Johannes Ritter, der dritte Sohn von Johannes, oder John, und Elisabeth Ritter von Dreisen wurde am 19. October 1832 geboren. Er war ein gesunder und kräftiger Knabe, der schon im Alter von vier Jahren Furchtlosigkeit und starke Willenskraft zeigte, die er sein ganzes Leben lang beibehielt. Im Alter von sechs Jahren wurde er in Dreisen in die Schule geschickt und es dauerte nicht lange bis er wirklich lernbegierig und wissensdurstig wurde. Schon im Alter



von 10 Jahren hatte er Alles erfaßt, was er in dieser Schule lernen konnte, und er bewahrte das Erlernte für spätere Benutzung sorgfältig auf. Von seinem 10. bis zum 12. Jahre half er beim Unterricht in der jüngsten Klasse, wobei er stets der erste Schüler in der höchsten Klasse dieser Schule blieb. Wegen seines jugendlichen Alters wurde er von vielen älteren Schülern um diese bevorzugte Stellung sehr beneidet, weil sie in ihrem Wissen gegen ihn zurückstanden. Als er die Schule verließ, hörte er jedoch nicht auf zu lernen, im Gegentheil fuhr er fort weiteres Lernen einzuheimen und das ist ihm zur zweiten Natur geworden, denn er studirt und lernt noch heute. Die englische Sprache erlernte er ohne einen Lehrer. Nachdem er sich hier geschäftlich etablirt, führte er mehrere Jahre lang seine eigene Correspondenz und seine eigenen Bücher und ging dadurch durch eine praktische Schule, indem er ein großes Fabrikations- und Handelsgeschäft führte, das sich über das ganze Land erstreckte. Er exportirte einen Theil seiner Waaren nach europäischen Ländern erfolgreich und ohne dabei finanzielle Verluste zu erleiden. Um dies erreichen zu können muß man einen energischen, ausdauernden, ruhelosen und conservativen Geist haben, der 18 von den 24 Stunden eines Tages thätig ist.

In seinem 20. Jahre las Philip J. Ritter einige Werke des englischen Schriftstellers Pope. In diesen hieß es: „Das richtige Studium der Menschheit ist der Mann.“ Pope's Werken folgend, warf er sich dann auf das Studium der Anatomie und Physiologie und der Thätigkeit der Organe des menschlichen Körpers. Pathologie, Therapie und Medizin wurden dann seine Lieblings-Studien und diese sind für ihn, für seine Familie und seine Verwandten im Laufe der Zeit sehr nützlich gewesen. Die dadurch erlangten Kenntnisse halfen seiner Familie sehr oft, denn in Folge seiner schnellen Diagnose und der prompten Anwendung passender Mittel konnte er sehr oft sie von schweren Schmerzen befreien und lange Krankheiten, ja einen frühzeitigen Tod verhindern.

Ebenso ist er mit den wichtigsten Elementen in der Chemie und ihrer Anwendung wohl vertraut, viel mehr wie dies sonst bei Laien der Fall zu sein pflegt. Er besitzt eine Anzahl prominenter Werke über diese Wissenschaften, die er fleißig zu Rathe zieht.

Als ein Beobachter ist seine Fähigkeit, alle Pflanzen und Thiere beim Ansehen zu kennen, stets ein Vergnügen für ihn. In Feld und Wald zu gehen und fast alle Bäume, Sträucher, Blumen, Pflanzen und das Unkraut beim Namen nennen und ihre Charakter und ihre Benutzung angeben zu können, zugleich dieselben unter dem Linne'schen System classificiren zu können, ist ein großes Vergnügen für ihn. Wenn er diese Pflanzen zc. sieht, ist es ihm, als ob er alte Freunde begrüße, denen er zuruft: „Es freut mich, Euch so wohl zu sehen.“ Dieses Vergnügen genießen



nur wenige Sterbliche. Er ist dabei kein geiziger Mann und gern läßt er Andere an diesem Vergnügen theilnehmen, indem er ihnen mittheilt, wie und worüber er sich gefreut hat. Auch mit der Formation und Beschaffenheit unserer Erde ist er wohl vertraut. Er kennt die Namen der meisten Gesteinarten und während seiner Reisen hat er oft Gelegenheit gehabt die Conglomerate, die er auf dem Felsengebirge in einer Höhe von 11,000 Fuß traf, mit denen zu vergleichen, die er in gleicher Höhe auf den Alpen der Schweiz gesehen. Conglomeratgestein ist ein aus Steinen (Bruchstücken und abgerundeten Steinen) verschiedener Art zusammengesetzte, während verschiedener Evolutionen der Erde gebildete zu einer compacten Masse zusammengebackene oder gefügte Steinart. Das Vorkommen dieses Gesteins in solcher Höhe auf dem Felsengebirge ist nach Ansicht vieler Geologen der Beweis dafür, daß diese Gebirge einst mit Wasser und Eis bedeckt waren, welche dieses Gestein zu ihrer gegenwärtigen Form abgerundet haben.

Philip J. Ritter ist 5 Fuß 8 Zoll groß, wohlproportionirt und wiegt jetzt 180 Pfund, während er im Alter von 21 bis 35 Jahren 150 Pfund wog. Er hat ein volles ovales Gesicht, einen hellen Teint, blaugraue Augen, helles Haar, dunkeln Schnurrbart und Kinnbart, der jetzt stark ins Graue spielt. Der Ausdruck seines Gesichts ist ernst, offen und gerade und verräth starke Willenskraft und Entschlossenheit, dabei zeugt dasselbe von Freundlichkeit und Jovialität und in der That hat sein Besitzer für Alle ein freundliches Wort und ein gütiges Lächeln. Der Inhaber dieses gütigen Gesichts ist ein Optimist, d. h. einer der glücklichen Menschen, welche die Ueberzeugung haben, daß Alles, was in dieser Welt geschieht, zum Besten gewendet werden kann und die Alles von der sonnigen Seite anschauen, während andere nur die Schattenseiten sehen können.

Nachdem er die Lebensperiode erreicht hatte, in der er sich nicht mehr für die regnerischen Tage zu sorgen brauchte, erfreuten er und seine Familie sich oft unter ihren vielen Freunden und in deren Gesellschaft in ihrem eigenen Hause des Lebens. Prominent unter diesen sozialen Ereignissen waren die häufigen Gesellschaften eines "Jolly Fifteen" genannten Clubs. Dieser Club bestand aus Männern über 40 Jahren, die sich seit Jahren gekannt hatten. Philip J. Ritter war Präsident desselben. Ihre Versammlungen wurden durch Diskutiren der Tagesereignisse und durch humoristische, ironische und sarkastische Reden, aber auch durch Erfrischungen gewürzt und ihr Vergnügen war von wirklich herzlicher Art. Kartenspiel, sowie politische oder geschäftliche Unterhaltung gab es nicht in diesem Club. Vielen dieser Versammlungen oder Gesellschaften wohnten auch die Frauen der Mitglieder bei. Dieser Club bestand von 1880 bis 1895. Der Verfasser dieser Zeilen trug viel zum Vergnügen desselben bei.

Philip J. Ritter ist in der Stadt, in der er wohnt, als ein liberalgesinnter und liberaler Mann bekannt, der wacker daran geholfen hat, diese Stadt durch ihre mannigfaltige Industrie bekannt zu machen, indem er sein Geschäft über alle Staaten der Union ausdehnte und dadurch Philadelphia überall bekannt machte. Auch wird er hochgeschätzt für das große Interesse, das er stets an der Wohlfahrt der Stadt und ihren besten Interessen genommen hat.

#### Geschäftliche Leben Philip J. Ritters.

Philip J. Ritter's geschäftliche Laufbahn begann im April 1854, als er sich im Ice Cream Groß- und Kleinhandel etablirte. Dieses Geschäft war im ersten Jahre sehr gut und im Frühjahr 1855 miethete er das Haus 610 Race Str. und etablirte daselbst neben seinem Ice Cream-Geschäft ein Confections-Geschäft und eine Bäckerei. Er arbeitete angestrengt, war aber nur theilweise erfolgreich. Die im Lande herrschende geschäftliche Depression und der kühle Sommer waren Factoren, die er nicht controlliren konnte. Die geschäftliche Depression hielt mehrere Jahre an und während dieser Zeit arbeitete Philip J. Ritter angestrengt und lebte ökonomisch, wohl wissend, daß Ausdauer Erfolg bringen müsse. Er legte sich damals auf das Catering-Geschäft und lieferte Suppers und Bankette für Bälle und ähnliche Festlichkeiten. 1857 und 1858 crystallisirte er mehrere Tomen Früchte, die er an Confectioners verkaufte.

Im September 1861 ging er nach Washington, D. C., miethete dort eine Bäckerei und etablirte dort eine Groß- und Klein- Kuchen- und Pasteten-Bäckerei, deren Produkte er meistens an die Händler verkaufte, welche die verschiedenen Regimenter mit Lebensmitteln versorgten, die im Umkreise von 10 Meilen um Washington lagen, um diese Stadt gegen die südlichen Rebellen zu schützen. Dieses Geschäft war jedoch nur zwei Jahre vortheilhaft. Sobald es aufhörte, gut zu sein, ging Philip nach Philadelphia zurück und übernahm wieder die Leitung seines Geschäfts, das während seiner Abwesenheit seine Gattin und seine Eltern mit Unterstützung seines Bruders Christian geführt hatten. Es lagen damals in Lagern in den Vorstädten Philadelphia's wohl 20,000 invalide Soldaten. Es gab zwei Lager oder Hospitäler mit je über 5,000 Invaliden in denselben. In jedem Lager befand sich ein Laden, in denen die Soldaten ihre Bedürfnisse einkaufen konnten. In diesen Läden gab es Kuchen, Pie und Ice Cream, mit welchen die Ver. Staaten Regierung die Soldaten nicht versorgte. Damals war von der Bundesregierung mit Sanction des Congresses eine große Menge Papiergeld ausgegeben worden und die Soldaten erhielten prompt Bezahlung für ihre Dienste. Da sie in den Feldzügen viele Entbehrungen ausgestanden hatten, thaten sich gar viele Soldaten an

den Leserbissen gütlich, die sie in diesen Läden erhalten konnten. Dieses Geschäft dauerte ungefähr drei Jahre und während dieser Zeit hatte der Schreiber dieser Zeilen fleißig gearbeitet und aus seinem Verdienst genug gespart, daß er dann die Grundlage für seine spätere geschäftliche Laufbahn in befriedigender Weise legen konnte.

Im Jahre 1867 herrschte wieder eine unbefriedigende Geschäftslage und er verkaufte sein Geschäft und reiste dann durch die westlichen Staaten, um dort nach günstigen Geschäfts-Gelegenheiten Umschau zu halten. Da er nichts fand, was seinen Ideen und seinem Geschmack behagte, kam er im Dezember 1867 nach Philadelphia zurück und lebte dort zurückgezogen vom Geschäft. Auch im Winter 1868 war nicht viel Gelegenheit, Etwas zu thun.

Im Frühjahr 1868 hielt er dann in allen Theilen der Stadt Umschau nach einer passenden Geschäftslage und fand schließlich ein Grundstück, das für eine solche sich erprobte. Es war das das Grundstück 2211-13-15-17 Frankford Ave. Dort etablirte er sich in seinem alten Geschäft als Confectioner, Kuchenbäcker und Ice Cream Macher, zu dem er dann noch Candy-Fabrikation fügte. Er richtete nun ein großes Haus mit einem anstoßenden schönen Laden ein und parallel damit einen eleganten Ice Cream Parlor, wie noch keiner in jenem Theile der Stadt bestand. Er fabrizirte das Beste von Allem und verkaufte zu mäßigen Preisen, wodurch sein Unternehmen von Anfang an ein Erfolg wurde. Er machte ein großes Retail-Geschäft in seinem Laden und ein Wholesale-Geschäft mit den andern Läden in jenem Theile Philadelphia's.

Im Herbst 1869 begann er das Präserviren von Früchten als Geschäft. Zuerst stellte er nur Apfelbutter her, dann die anderen Fruchtpräserven. Während der ersten zwei Jahre verkaufte er auswärts seine Waaren nur nach New York.

1870 baute Philip J. Ritter auf 2211 und 2213 Frankford Ave. zwei hübsche große Läden und einen großen Saal über denselben und vermietete dieses Haus. Dasselbe hatte \$4,000 zu bauen gekostet und brachte \$900 Miete per Jahr.

Im Jahre 1871 dehnte er sein Geschäft in präservirten Früchten auf andere Städte aus, indem er Männer engagirte, welche diese Waaren dort verkauften.

In 1875 hatte sich das Geschäft in präservirten Früchten zu solchem Umfange ausgedehnt, daß die Leitung beider Geschäfte zu lästig für ihn wurde. Er gab daher im November dieses Jahres das Confectioner- und Ice Cream-Geschäft auf und dehnte das Frucht-Präserviren-Geschäft weiter aus, indem er hinter seinen Grundstücken an Frankford Ave. ein Fabrikgebäude errichtete. Philip J. Ritter's Idee war, ein Geschäft aufzubauen, das er über die ganzen Vereinigten Staaten

ausdehnen konnte, und das erreichte er in wenigen Jahren. 1880 konnten Ritter's Präserven fast in allen Städten von New York bis San Francisco und von New Orleans bis nach Minnesota zum Verkauf gefunden werden und die Ausdehnung des Geschäftes wurde zu einer Zeit ausgeführt, in welcher die verderblichste Geschäftsdepression in den Ver. Staaten herrschte, von 1873 bis 1880. Das damals in Circulation befindliche Geld war ein revidirter Ueberbleibsel des großen rebellionskrieges und bestand in kleinen Papiernoten von 5, 10, 15, 25 und 50 Cents, den Greenback-Noten von \$1 aufwärts und National-Banknoten, sowie Kupfer und Nickel Scheidemünzen. Am 1. Januar 1880 nahmen die Ver. Staaten die Baargeld- (Specie) Zahlung wieder auf, worauf sich das Geschäft neu belebte.

In 1880 wurde das Frucht-Präserven-Geschäft so lebhaft, daß das Etablissement sich als zu klein erwies und eine größere Fabrik gebaut werden mußte. Das geschah 1881 und in 1883 mußten weitere Vergrößerungen vorgenommen werden. Damals kaufte Philip J. Ritter eine 185 bei 145 Fuß große alte Brauerei, 309 — 331 Green Str., zur Ausdehnung seiner Fabrik. Die Nachfrage nach Präserven war so stark, daß die Arbeiter in diesem Etablissement Tag und Nacht arbeiten mußten, um dieselbe zu befriedigen. Grund dazu war die Thatfache, daß alle Arten von Geschäften im ganzen Lande sich neu belebt hatten und daß die Präserven und Apfelbutter zu einem so niedrigen Preise verkauft wurden, daß alle Klassen der Bevölkerung dieselben erreichen konnten.

In 1882 verwandelte Philip J. Ritter sein ausgedehntes Geschäft in eine Aktien-Gesellschaft unter der Firma „Philip J. Ritter Conserve Company.“ Dieselbe begann ihre Thätigkeit mit \$100,000 Kapital und einem Ueberschuß von \$25,000. Zu dieser Gesellschaft gehören neben ihm sein Bruder Christian Ritter, sein Sohn George W. Ritter, seine Frau Louise Ritter, Herr W. J. Hofman, Herr Francis J. Dillman und sein Schwager, Herr John Gegenheimer. Philip J. Ritter wurde zum Präsidenten, Christian Ritter zum Vice-Präsidenten, Francis J. Dillman zum Schatzmeister und W. J. Hofman zum Sekretär erwählt. Diese Umgestaltung fand statt, weil Philip J. Ritter die Ueberzeugung gewann, daß sein Geschäft zu groß werde, so daß im Falle seines Todes seine Frau und seine minderjährigen Kinder dasselbe nicht weiter führen könnten und daß das für sie große Beschwerden und Verluste im Gefolge haben mußte. Diese Idee und die Aufnahme von Leuten in die Gesellschaft, die stets sehr treue Arbeiter in den von ihnen eingenommenen Plätzen gewesen, erwies sich als eine sehr glückliche und alle arbeiten noch jetzt in Harmonie im allgemeinen besten Interesse des Geschäfts.



1883 unternahm Philip J. Ritter seine erste Reise nach Californien und kaufte dort mehrere Car-Ladungen Aprikosen und Kirschen in luftdichten Büchsen. Auch dies erwies sich als ein gutes Unternehmen. Auch alle Jahre von 1883 bis 1890 waren prosperirende.

1890 reiste Philip J. Ritter schon im Mai nach Californien, um größere Quantitäten Früchte zu kaufen. In diesem Jahre war die Fruchternte in den Staaten östlich vom Felsengebirge ein völliger Fehlschlag und fast der ganze Bedarf für sein großes Geschäft mußte aus Californien bezogen werden.

Das Jahr 1890 wurde das Bannerjahr des Geschäfts. Die Nachfrage nach seinen Produkten war so groß, daß es fast unmöglich war, dieselbe zu befriedigen. Auch 1891, 1892 und 1893 waren gute Geschäftsjahre.

In 1891 rief Philip J. Ritter in Gemeinschaft mit Herrn Robert Hickmott von Haywards, Californien, in Oakland, Cal., eine „Cannery“ ins Leben, um seine Früchte zu präserviren. Hierin hatten sie einen ausgezeichneten Erfolg. Ihre Früchte erhielten schnell überall, wo dieselben verkauft wurden, einen vorzüglichen Ruf wegen ihrer ausgezeichneten Qualität und wegen ihres feinen Aroma. Im Jahre 1891 errichteten sie, auf einem zu diesem Zweck gekauften großen Grundstück neben der Cannery, ein großes Lagerhaus. 1892 präservirten sie, neben den Früchten, auch 3,000 Kisten Spargel. Im August dieses Jahres wäre Herr Hickmott beinahe getödtet worden, als er in San Francisco von einer Straßencar getroffen wurde. Er lag damals 10 Tage lang besinnungslos. Philip J. Ritter und William Henry Ritter, sein Sohn, wurden nun telegraphisch nach Californien berufen und sie reisten sofort dorthin ab und übernahmen die Leitung der Cannery. Sie blieben, bis fast alle Waaren verschifft und das Geschäft für dieses Jahr abgeschlossen war. Am 15. Dezember reisten sie wieder nach Philadelphia ab. 1893 löste Philip J. Ritter seine Partnerschaft mit Herrn Hickmott auf, aber er erhält noch heute seine californischen Früchte von Herrn Hickmott.

1893 war die Columbia Ausstellung in Chicago. Philip J. Ritter ging am 1. April nach Chicago, überwachte und leitete dort die Ausstellung der Philip J. Ritter Conserven Comp. und blieb bis zum Juni, wann er wieder nach dem Osten kam, um hier nach seinen mannigfaltigen Interessen zu sehen. Aber im Juli ging er wieder in Begleitung seiner Familie nach Chicago und blieb dort, bis die Ausstellung am 1. November geschlossen wurde.

1893 entstand wieder eine allgemeine Geschäftsdepression in den Vereinigten Staaten und hielt mehrere Jahre an. Geschäfte aller Art litten darunter und auch das Frucht-Präserven-Geschäft war nicht mehr lohnend. Diese Depression hielt

an bis 1898, wann endlich eine Besserung eintrat. Philip J. Ritter wurde damals veranlaßt, in eine neue Aktien-Gesellschaft zur Fabrikation von Eis mit einem Aktienkapital von \$100,000 einzutreten. Philip J. Ritter wurde zum Präsidenten der neuen Gesellschaft und Herr A. W. Hofman, der Sekretär der P. J. Ritter Conservern Comp., zum Schatzmeister erwählt. Dieses Unternehmen erwies sich als ein Erfolg und die Gesellschaft hat seit dem zweiten Jahre ihres Bestehens gute Dividende auf seine Aktien verdient und bezahlt.

Die Jahre von 1894 bis 1904 waren im Präserven-Geschäft, soweit das Philip J. Ritter betrifft, ereignislos. Das innere Geschäft ist noch, wie schon seit vielen Jahren, in den Händen des Herrn Christian Ritter. Er und sein Sohn Charles überwachen und leiten die Fabrikation. Herr A. W. Hofman leitet die allgemeine Verwaltung, die Correspondenz und den Verkauf der Produkte. Herr A. J. Dillman leitete den Einkauf der Früchte und besorgte die Finanzgeschäfte der Firma, bis er 1902 starb. Seit jener Zeit hat Herr W. H. Ritter, der bis dahin die Fabrikation der Blechbüchsen leitete, neben dieser Stellung die Stellung des Herrn Dillman übernommen und verwaltet dieselbe mit einem Stabe von Angestellten. Philip J. Ritter ist im Stande gewesen, einen Theil seiner Thätigkeit aufzugeben und hält sich jetzt zum Theil zurückgezogen vom Geschäft. Ein geschwächter Gesundheitszustand machte das für ihn zu einer Nothwendigkeit. In den letzten zwei Jahren war sein Gesundheitszustand ein besserer gewesen und er wurde im März 1904 wieder zum Präsidenten der Philadelphia Ice Exchange gewählt.



### Louisa Gegenheimer-Ritter.

Louisa Gegenheimer-Ritter, die Gattin von Philip J. Ritter, wurde am 14. April 1839 in Philadelphia geboren. Sie ist die Tochter von Johann oder John und Justina Gegenheimer, geb. Hochwald, aus Philadelphia. Die Eltern der Frau Ritter waren 1830 nach den Ver. Staaten eingewandert. John Michael Gegenheimer war in Ittersbach im Großherzogthum Baden, Deutschland, im Jahre 1804 geboren. Justina Gegenheimer stammte aus Knittlingen, einem Städtchen von 2,000 Einwohnern im Königreich Württemberg, wo ihr Vater, J. Hochwald, ein wohlhabender Landwirth war. Philip J. Ritter und Gattin besuchten 1886 das Haus, in dem die Mutter derselben geboren worden war. Das Haus befand sich noch im guten Zustande und trug noch das Datum seiner Erbauung und den Namen „Hochwald.“

John Gegenheimer und seine Frau kamen mit einem holländischen Segelschiffe in dieses Land und brauchten zu dieser Fahrt 120 Tage. Sie hatten eine schwere Reise und verzweifelten oft daran, daß sie lebend dieses Land erreichen würden. Ihre Tochter Louisa und ihre Familie legten dieselbe Fahrt 1885 und 1889 in Dampfern der Cunard-Linie in 6½ und 7 Tagen zurück. Das war 56 und 59 Jahre später. Aber John Gegenheimer und Frau überstanden diese lange Reise glücklich, hatten hier ein Duzend Kinder und erreichten ein Alter von über 80 Jahren.

Louisa Gegenheimer erhielt ihre Erziehung in Philadelphia's öffentlichen Schulen. Sie war eine gute und gelehrige Schülerin und nachdem sie 14 Jahre alt geworden, verließ sie die Schule und lebte zwei Jahre lang mit einer befreundeten Familie, in der sie die Haushaltung führen lernte. Mit ihrem 16. Jahre wurde sie Verkäuferin in einem Confectioner-Geschäft. Im Alter von 19 Jahren verheirathete sie sich mit Philip J. Ritter. Ihre Ehe war stets eine glückliche und aus derselben entsprossen vier Kinder :

1. George W. Ritter, geboren den 9. März 1860.
2. Philip J. Ritter, geboren den 14. November 1861.
3. Karl J. Ritter, geboren den 13. April 1866.
4. Wilhelm Henry Ritter, geboren den 17. Februar 1869.

Zur Zeit ihrer Verheirathung war Frau Ritter wohl proportionirt, etwas größer, wie Mädchen in diesem Alter zu sein pflegen, mit einem ovalen Gesicht und

rothen Wangen. Sie hatte dunkelbraunes Haar und Augen und konnte wohl brünett genannt werden. Der Ausdruck ihrer Augen und ihres Gesichts ist ein milder und angenehmer, und ihr Charakter steht in Harmonie mit diesem Ausdruck und zeugt für die gute und treue Seele, die in ihrem Körper wohnt. Louisa ist eine gute Frau für ihren Mann und eine gütige Mutter für ihre Kinder. Sie leitete fast völlig das Metall-Geschäft ihres Vatten und mit unermüdlicher Energie, angenehmem und geselligem Wesen und strenger Aufmerksamkeit für das Geschäft verhalf sie diesem zu seinem Erfolg. Da sie ein gutes und gesundes Urtheil in der Leitung des Geschäftes hat, ermöglichte sie es ihrem Vatten, daß dieser der Fabrikation von Waaren, die er verkaufte, sowie dem Wholesale Zweiges seines Geschäfts seine volle Aufmerksamkeit zuwenden konnte.

Ihr Gesundheitszustand war während der ersten 25 Jahre ihrer Ehe ein ziemlich guter; sie litt ab und zu unter dyspeptischen Beschwerden, die sich oft verschlimmerten, bis es ihrem Vatten gelang, ein Mittel zu finden, das ihr dann sofortige Linderung verschaffte. Nachdem dieses Leiden vorüber war, erfreute sie sich guter Gesundheit und wurde stark, so daß sie einst 174 Pfund wog. Im Alter von 65 Jahren wiegt sie jetzt noch über 150 Pfund. In den letzten zwei Jahren ist ihr Zustand jedoch in Folge von Leber- und Nierenbeschwerden kein besonders guter gewesen.

### Katharina Ritter-Cook,

**Einzige Tochter von Johannes und Elisabeth Ritter, geb. in Dreisen im Jahre 1834.**

Sie wurde in der Schule ihres Heimathsortes erzogen, war eine gute Schülerin und lernte prompt Alles, was in dieser Schule gelehrt wurde. 14 Jahre alt, wurde sie in der protestantischen Kirche confirmirt und verließ dann die Schule, um im Hause ihrer Eltern in der Haushaltung unterwiesen zu werden. Im Alter von 18 Jahren wanderte sie nach Amerika aus. Sie fuhr mit einem Dampfer den Rhein hinab und schiffte sich dann in Havre de Grace in einem Segelschiffe nach New York ein. 76 Tage dauerte die Fahrt, die für Katharina durch schwere Stürme, lange Seefrankheit zc. zu keiner besonders angenehmen wurde.

Nach ihrer Ankunft in New York kam Katharina nach Philadelphia und war hier in Haushaltungen beschäftigt, bis sie 1854 Johannes Koch heirathete, der jedoch hier seinen Namen in John Cook umgewandelt hatte. Koch war 1830 in Weingarten im Großherzogthum Baden geboren, lernte nach Ablauf seiner Schulzeit vier Jahre als Schlosser und kam 1850 nach Amerika, resp. Philadelphia. Hier arbeitete er mehrere Jahre als Maschinist, war sparsam und etablirte dann ein Grocery-Geschäft, das er für den größten Theil seines Lebens betrieb. Schließlich verkaufte er dieses Grocery-Geschäft und wandte sich der Fabrikation von Spiegelglas zu. In diesem Geschäft war er jedoch nur wenige Jahre thätig, verkaufte dasselbe und seit jener Zeit lebt er mit seiner Frau von jedem Geschäft zurückgezogen.

Das Paar hatte vier Kinder, von denen eines in der Kindheit starb, während drei am Leben blieben. Von diesen ist Amalia mit Herrn John Vogler verheirathet.

Vier Kinder wurden ihnen geboren, drei Töchter und ein Sohn. Eine Tochter starb in der Kindheit, die anderen Kinder leben noch. Ihre Namen sind :

1. Louisa, die älteste, geboren in 1858.
2. Amelia, geboren in 1860.
3. George, geboren in 1864.

## Christian Ritter

von Philadelphia, jüngster Sohn von Johannes Ritter von Dreisen.

Christian Ritter wurde im Jahre 1844 zu Dreisen geboren. Er war ein gesundes starkes Kind und als das dreizehnte seiner Eltern 24 Jahre jünger als sein ältester Bruder. Er besuchte die Schule in Dreisen nur ein Jahr und kam im siebenten Jahre nach Philadelphia und beendigte seine Schulzeit in den Schulen Philadelphia's.

Christian kam schon jung ins Geschäft; er half öfters seinem Bruder Philip N. in seinem Conditor-Geschäft und erlernte dasselbe als sein Handwerk und arbeitete nach Vollendung seiner Lehrzeit für verschiedene Geschäfte in Philadelphia und Washington. Kurz nachdem er sein 20. Jahr erreicht hatte, verheirathete er sich und fing ein Conditor-Geschäft an auf eigene Rechnung. Er hatte Erfolg in dem Geschäft bis zu seinem 29. Lebensjahre. Da wurde er durch eine schwere Krankheit betroffen, die ihm durch Paralytis die unteren Körpertheile lähmte und er fast ein ganzes Jahr an das Bett und Haus gefesselt war und mehrere Jahre mit Krücken gehen mußte. Er war gezwungen, sein Geschäft auszuverkaufen. Nach dem Ausverkauf seines Geschäfts, gab ihm sein Bruder eine Anstellung als Vor- mann in seinem Conserven-Geschäft, aber mehrere Jahre lang mußte er mit einer Kutsche in das Geschäft geholt und Abends wieder heimgebracht werden. Die Paralytis oder Lähmung in den Beinen wurde allmählig besser, so daß er ohne Krücken gehen konnte und anstatt zwei Stöcke gebrauchte, und so ist es auch geblieben. Seine körperliche Gesundheit ist sehr gut, nur die Lähmung ist nie beseitigt worden. Im Jahre 1882 wandelte sein Bruder Philip N. sein Geschäft in eine Aktien-Gesellschaft um und Christian Ritter, der die Fabrikation des Geschäftes führte, wurde als Aktionär Theilhaber und Vice-Präsident der Gesellschaft, eine Stelle die er bis zu dem heutigen Tage zur vollsten Zufriedenheit der Gesellschaft begleitet.

Christian Ritter verheirathete sich in 1865 mit Mary Häfer von Pottsville, Pa. Dieser Ehe entsprangen 12 Kinder; zwei davon starben in der Kindheit und 10 sind noch am Leben, wovon das jüngste Kind auch 24 Jahre jünger ist, als das

älteste, gerade so wie bei seinem Vater. Die volle Beschreibung seiner Nachkommen ist in dem englischen Theil dieses Buches enthalten. Die Namen dieser Kinder sind:

1. Elisabeth Regina Ritter, geboren 21. März 1865.
2. Christian Wilhelm, geboren 26. Juli 1866.
3. Mary Amelia, geboren 5. November 1867.
4. Regina Mathilda, geboren 2. Februar 1869.
5. Katharina Paulina, geboren 10. Februar 1871.
6. Laura Adele, geboren 10. Juni 1872.
7. Sarah Clara, geboren 13. October 1873.
8. Louisa May, geboren 24. April 1875.
9. Philip Johann, geboren 14. October 1877.
10. Karl August, geboren 27. Mai 1879.
11. Emma Rebecca, geboren 8. September 1881.
12. Villian Rosa, geboren 27. Juni 1889.

## Johann Philip Ritter.

Vierter Sohn von Georg Christian und Eva Ritter, geboren 1801, gestorben 1871.

Johann Philip Ritter wurde als vierter Sohn von Georg Christian und Eva Ritter am 24. Juni 1801 im Neuhof bei Altleiningen geboren. In der Schule von Altleiningen erhielt er seinen Schulunterricht und wurde daselbst im Alter von 14 Jahren in der protestantischen Kirche confirmirt. Dann half er seinen Eltern in der Bewirthschaftung ihres Anwesens. Als dann seine Eltern nach Polen auswanderten, blieb er mit seinen Brüdern Lorenz, und Johannes in der alten Heimath und er ging zu seinem Onkel Valentin Schreiner in Breunigweiler, der Hülfe bei der Verwaltung seiner großen Besitzung brauchte. Johann Philip blieb bei ihm 7 Jahre lang, gewann in dieser Zeit das Herz Katharina Schreiners, der Tochter des Valentin Schreiner, und heirathete diese, worauf das junge Paar sich selbst einen Hausstand gründete. Johann Philip hatte sich seinen ganzen Verdienst gespart, für damalige Zeit eine recht ansehnliche Summe, und seine Frau erbt beträchtlich Geld und Land, so daß sie über ein hübsches Vermögen verfügten, das durch glückliche Unternehmen und durch ökonomische Haushaltung wesentlich vergrößert wurde, obgleich sie eine große Familie hatten und viele Kinder großzogen. Ihre Ehe war eine glückliche und zufriedene. Beide waren sehr gutmüthig und liebenswürdig.

Johann Philip war 5 Fuß 8 Zoll groß, breitschulterig und wohl proportionirt, mit einem ernstern aber milden Ausdruck in seinem ovalen Gesicht; er hatte braune Augen und braunes, fast schwarzes Haar. In seinen jüngeren Jahren war er ein hübscher Mann, seine Gattin eine hübsche Frau. In seinem 45. Jahre war sein Haar schon stark ergraut, während sein Gesicht mit rothigen Wangen noch jugendlich geblieben war. Johann Philip war ein gütiger Gatte und Vater, gutherzig und hatte für Jedermann ein freundliches Wort; er war unter seinen Mitbürgern sehr beliebt und mehrere Male erwählten ihn diese zu ihrem ersten Bürgermeister.

Diese Stelle behielt er, bis er nach den Vereinigten Staaten auswanderte. Es war ein schwerer Schritt für ihn, sein Heimathland und seine Freunde zu verlassen, die ihn stets als den ersten Bürger angesehen und geehrt hatten. Aber er hatte gewichtige Gründe für diesen Schritt. Seine fünf Kinder hatten sich bereits in der Neuen Welt angesiedelt, hatten alle ihr eigenes Heim und es ging ihnen gut; dabei waren die geschäftlichen Verhältnisse in Deutschland nicht die besten und für die Zukunft für ihn und seine bei ihm gebliebenen fünf Kinder nicht sehr versprechend. Er verkaufte daher sein Hab' und Gut und reiste 1857 nach Amerika ab. Wie Schiller sagt: „Des Lebens ungemischte Freude wird keinem



Sterblichen zu Theil,“ so machte Johann Philip Mitter diese Erfahrung auch an sich. Es waren schwere Stunden für ihn gewesen, als seine Eltern, seine Brüder und seine Schwestern von ihm gingen und nach Polen auswanderten, als sie ihn verließen, um ihn nie wieder zu sehen; aber es waren auch schwere Stunden, als er mit seiner Frau und fünf Kindern ihre Heimath und ihre theuren Freunde verließen, um sie nie wiederzusehen; von einem trauten Heim, das harte, jahrelange Arbeit geschaffen; von Mitbürgern, deren Freund und Rathgeber er gewesen, und die ihn wiederholt dadurch geehrt, daß sie ihn zu ihrem Bürgermeister erwählt hatten. Viele Thränen flossen beim Abschied von denen, die sie wahrscheinlich nie wiedersehen würden.

Aber der Mann hat Pflichten zu erfüllen. Für das Wohlbefinden seiner Familie zu sorgen, ist seine erste Pflicht, die er stets im Auge haben soll und muß, und gar oft erfordert es große Opfer, dieser Pflicht gerecht zu werden, und oft müssen alle sentimentalen Gefühle bei Seite gesetzt werden, um dies thun zu können, wie dies im Falle Johann Philip Mitters der Fall war. Seine Familie trat die Reise nach Amerika an, die mancherlei Unannehmlichkeiten und Beschwerden für sie hatte, denn schwere Krankheiten suchten sie auf dem Meere heim. Eines der Kinder war einen ganzen Tag besinnungslos, wurde aber schließlich vom Schiffsarzt gerettet. Nachdem sie glücklich in New York gelandet, blieben sie dort nur kurze Zeit und traten dann die damals so lange und anstrengende Reise nach dem Westen an, die für sie besonders dadurch erschwert wurde, daß sie nicht im Stande waren, englisch zu sprechen. Sie reisten mit der Eisenbahn und per Dampfer nach Burlington, Ia. Dort kaufte John Philip Mitter zwei Pferde und einen Wagen und machte dann die Reise im eigenen Fuhrwerke weiter auf Straßen, die diesen Namen nicht verdienten, durch ein Land, in dem damals großer Wassermangel herrschte, unter denen alle Leute schwer zu leiden hatten. Während der 80 Meilen langen Fahrt von Burlington nach Dablonega, Ia., wo die ältesten fünf Kinder Mitter's lebten, mußten sie schweres Geld für alles Wasser bezahlen, das sie für sich und ihre Familie brauchten.

Nachdem sie endlich wohlbehalten in Dablonega angekommen, hatten John Philip und sein treues Weib die große Freude, all' ihre Kinder wieder um sich zu sehen. Bei ihrer Ankunft flossen Thränen der Freude reichlich und großer Jubel herrschte. Kurz nach seiner Ankunft kaufte John Philip eine Farm von 80 Ackern mit den nöthigen Gebäuden und nun waren alle glücklich und zufrieden, daß sie in der neuen Welt in einem eigenen Heim auf's Neue wieder an die Arbeit gehen konnten. Aber diese Freude war nur von kurzer Dauer, denn wenige Monate nach ihrer Ankunft erkrankte ihr Sohn, John Philip jr., am Typhus und starb. Dann

verlor er während des ersten Winters das Paar Pferde, die er in Burlington für \$300 gekauft hatte, was ihm nicht nur großen direkten sondern auch indirekten Nachtheil brachte, denn er brauchte diese Pferde nöthig zur Cultivirung seiner Farm. Es dauerte mehrere Jahre, ehe John Philip sich an die Lebensweise und Gebräuche der Leute in ihrer neuen Heimath gewöhnt hatte; aber nachdem sie sich eingewohnt hatten, waren sie wieder zufrieden und erfreuten sich ihres Lebens. Hauptsächlich trug zu diesem Umstande die Thatfache bei, daß nach 1863 alle Farmprodukte, wie Weizen, Gerste, Mais und Hafer, sowie Rind- und Schweinefleisch hohe Preise erzielten. Ebenso brachten Pferde und Rindvieh gute Preise und das brachte Prosperität über's ganze Land. Und bekanntlich gibt es nichts in dieser Welt, was die Menschen glücklicher und zufriedener macht, wie Prosperität.

Im August 1867 besuchte John Philip Ritter seine Verwandten bei Hamilton im Staate Ohio; er blieb dort einen Monat lang und es gefiel ihm ausgezeichnet. Einen Monat später besuchten sein Nefse Philip J. Ritter von Philadelphia, dessen Frau und Kind und sein Schwager Karl Gegenheimer, John Philip Ritter und seine Familie, sowie die andern Verwandten in jenem Landestheile und es schien, als ob dieser Besuch neues Leben in ihn und seine ganze Familie gebracht hätte. Philip J. Ritter blieb mit seinen Begleitern wohl einen Monat in Iowa und sehr oft begleiteten Onkel und Tante Ritter sie auf ihren Besuchen zu den verschiedenen Verwandten. Philip J. Ritter erheiterte durch sein heiteres, frohes und joviales Temperament Alle, mit denen er in Verkehr kam.

John Philip Ritter führte dann ein zufriedenes und ruhiges Leben bis er 1871 starb.

John Philip Ritter und seine Frau Katharina, geborene Schreiner, hatten 14 Kinder, die sämmtlich in Breunigweiler geboren waren; drei davon starben schon in frühester Kindheit. Die andern sind:

1. Johannes, geboren 1827.
2. Philip, geboren 1. Mai 1835, gestorben in Iowa, 23. Dezember 1857. Er war unverheirathet.
3. Daniel, geboren 22. October 1832.
4. Philipina, geboren 6. März 1838.
5. Margareth, geboren 16. Juli 1841. Kam 1852 nach Amerika, heirathete Robert Parson in Butler County, Ohio, starb aber ein Jahr nach ihrer Vermählung im Kindbett.
6. Elisabeth, geboren 15. Juli 1839.
7. Andrew, geboren 2. Juni 1841.
8. William, geboren 6. Juli 1843.
9. Katharina, geboren 1. März 1845.
10. Frederick, geboren 5. September 1846.
11. Theresia, geboren 1. October 1848.

### Katharina Ritter, geborene Schreiner.

Katharina Ritter, die Gattin von John Philip Ritter aus Breunigweiler, war die Tochter von Valentin und Elisabeth Schreiner, als welche sie 1808 in Breunigweiler geboren wurde. In der dortigen Schule für das Leben mit Kenntnissen ausgerüstet, lernte sie, nachdem sie die Schule verlassen, zuerst Stricken und Nähen und dann half sie ihrer Mutter in der Haushaltung und war eine gute Stütze derselben. Ihre Mutter war eine ganz vorzügliche Hausfrau, correct, schnell und energisch, und sie erzog ihre Töchter in derselben Weise. Katharina war eine ihrer jüngsten Töchter und nachdem ihre älteren Schwestern sich verheirathet hatten, übernahm sie die Pflichten eines großen Haushalts. Ihr Vater war der reichste Mann in dem Ort und, wie das in europäischen Ländern üblich, mußte seine Familie eine gewisse Würde aufrecht erhalten, die ihr zur Natur wird und die sich auf die Kinder forterbt und diesen während des ganzen Lebens anhängt. Dies war auch bei Katharina Schreiner der Fall.

Katharina war ein schönes Mädchen, mit hellem Teint, rundem, rosigem Gesicht und großen blauen Augen. Ihr Angesicht war immer freundlich und es schien, als ob sie nur lächeln und lachen könnte. Als sie ins heirathsfähige Alter kam, heirathete sie ihren Vetter John Philip Ritter, der im Hause ihrer Eltern wohnte. In ihrem mittleren Alter wurde sie sehr corpulent. Das Paar hatte 13 Kinder, von denen zwei in der frühesten Kindheit starben, während die anderen am Leben blieben.

Katharina war eine gesunde und sehr gesellige Frau, die sehr gern ihre Freunde und Verwandten besuchte. Es war daher eine schwere Aufgabe für sie, ihre Freunde und ihre Heimath zu verlassen und nach Amerika zu gehen. Und nach ihrer Ankunft in diesem Lande, vermißte sie lange Zeit ihre Freunde, obgleich sie inmitten ihrer verheiratheten Kinder und andern Verwandten wohnte.

Sie war sehr gütig und weichherzig gegen ihre Kinder und mit ihrem Gatten theilte sie alle Freude und Sorgen des Lebens. Eine der größten Freuden ihres Lebens war der Besuch, den sie in Gemeinschaft mit ihrem Neffen 1874 Philip J. Ritter seiner Familie in ihrem Heim in Philadelphia abstattete.

Katharina erfreute sich bis an ihr Lebensende der besten Gesundheit. Sie starb 1888 in ihrem Heim in Iowa und sie wurde auf einem Friedhofe in der Nähe ihrer Wohnung neben ihrem ihr vorausgegangenen Gatten zur letzten Ruhe bestattet. Die Ruhestätte beider schmückten hübsche Monumente.

### John Ritter,

**Erster Sohn von John Philip und Katharina Ritter, geboren 8. September 1827 in Brennigweiler.**

John Ritter von Hedrick, Iowa, wurde am 8. September 1827 in Brennigweiler in der Rheinpfalz geboren und erhielt seine Schulbildung in der Schule seines Heimathsortes. Nachdem er die Schule in seinem 14. Jahre verlassen, erlernte er auf dem Anwesen seines Vaters die Landwirthschaft. Im Alter von 19 Jahren reiste er mit Fremden seines Vaters in einem Wagen über Metz und Paris nach dem 500 Meilen entfernt liegenden Hafen Havre de Grace und schiffte sich dann auf einem Segelschiffe ein, um nach der neuen Welt zu fahren. Nach einer Fahrt von zwei Monaten landete er in New York und er brauchte dann zwei weitere Monate, um von New York mit dem Dampfer und dem Kanalboot nach Ohio zu kommen, wo er sich in Butler County niederließ, wo er sechs Jahre lang blieb. Während dieser Zeit erfor er sich in Arl. Carolina Hecker seine Lebensgefährtin, heirathete dieselbe und wanderte 1853 nach dem damals noch in der Wildniß liegenden Staate Iowa. Damals machte dort noch das Heulen der Wölfe die Nächte zu schauerlichen. Wildfaken und Dachse gab es im Ueberfluß und friedliche Hirische plünderten noch während der Nächte die Getreidefelder der Farmer, aber auch die Indianer waren noch tägliche Besucher und jagten den friedlichen Bebauern der Felder manchen Schrecken ein. John Ritter gehörte zu den Pionieren des Staates Iowa und ehe er starb erlebte er dort manche große Veränderung. Die Wildheit der urwüchsigen Natur machte wohlgepflegten Farmen und gemüthlichen Heimstätten Platz und schönen Städten, umgeben von werthvollen Farmen.

Als John Ritter von Ohio nach Iowa auswanderte, legte er die 700 Meilen betragende Entfernung in seinem eigenen Wagen zurück, was zwei Monate in Anspruch nahm. Jetzt ist das Land von Ohio bis nach Iowa von einem dichten Eisenbahnnetze bedeckt. 1901 gab es im Staate Iowa allein 8,527 Meilen Eisenbahnen. Als John Ritter über See kam, brauchte er dazu 44 Tage in einem Segelschiffe — heute legt man diese Reise in einem Schnelldampfer in 5 bis 6 Tagen zurück.

John Ritter's erste Frau starb am 14. Juni 1853; ein Kind, das sie ihm geschenkt, starb schon in der Kindheit. John Ritter heirathete dann am 27. November 1853 Arl. Christine McKerman von Daltonega, Wapello County, Iowa.

Auch sie war mit ihren Eltern in einem Wagen nach Iowa ausgewandert, wobei sie denselben schweren Stand gehabt, wie ihr Gatte in früheren Jahren auf demselben Wege. Sie wohnt jetzt in Hedrick, Iowa, und ihre Kinder haben sämmtlich ihr Heim als ihre Postadresse.

John Mitter lebte auf seiner Farm in Keokuk County, Ia., bis zu seinem am 21. Mai 1891 erfolgten Tode. Seine Farm grenzte an die seiner Eltern. Er hatte mit seiner zweiten Frau 12 Kinder, von denen noch 4 am Leben sind.

1. Mary Mathilda, geboren 2. Mai 1856.
  2. John Philip, geboren 15. November 1858.
  3. Adeline C., geboren 7. November 1860.
  4. Elisabeth Anna, geboren 12. Januar 1864.
- Alle die anderen Kinder starben in der Kindheit.

**Daniel Ritter.**

**Dritter Sohn von John Philip und Katharina Ritter, geboren 22. Oktober 1832 in Breunigweiler.**

Daniel Ritter reiste im Alter von 21 Jahren im Jahre 1853 aus seiner Heimath über Norbach nach Paris und dann in einem Segelschiffe von Havre de Grace nach New York, wo er am 15. April ankam, nachdem die Reise 47 Tage gedauert. Von New York fuhr er mit dem Kanalboot und mit der Eisenbahn nach Cincinnati, Ohio, blieb dort eine Woche lang und ging dann von da per Boot den Ohio hinab nach St. Louis und dann den Mississippi hinauf nach Keokuk, Iowa; von da per Wagen nach Agency, Wapello County, Iowa, da es damals noch keine Eisenbahnen in Iowa gab, und von da aus besuchte er seinen Onkel Jacob Löwenburg in Dah-lonega, blieb dort drei Tage und dann brachte ihn sein Onkel zu seinem Bruder John, der auf einer Farm in Keokuk County, Ia., lebte. Als Daniel bei seinem Bruder ankam, bestand sein Vermögen, neben den Kleidern, die er auf dem Leibe trug, aus zwei Hemden und ein Paar Hosen, aber er hatte \$9 Schulden. Das war sein Anfang in Iowa und in der Neuen Welt. Daniel arbeitete zuerst für Farmer in der Nachbarschaft, wobei er \$10 und \$12 per Monat verdiente und freie Station hatte. Aber er sparte sein Geld und 1862 kaufte er 60 Acker Land in Wapello County, wobei er \$10 per Acker bezahlte. Am 8. März 1863 heirathete er Mary Katharina Mühlkopf, die am 15. August 1839 nahe Göbingen in Württemberg geboren und 1857 mit ihren Eltern nach Ohio gekommen war. Daniel und seine junge Frau bezogen 1864 ihre Farm von 60 Ackern Land und wohnten daselbst bis 1870, wann sie diese Farm gegen eine größere von 80 Ackern vertauschten, die vier Meilen nördlich belegen war, und ihren Wohnsitz dorthin verlegten. 1873 kaufte Daniel 40 weitere Acker Land für \$1,000, und 1895 weitere 34 Acker, so daß seine Farm nun eine Größe von 154 Acker hatte, die er heute noch besitzt. Im Jahre 1901 zog sich Daniel von der Farm zurück und lebt seitdem in Hendrick in beschaulicher Ruhe. Daniel war in seinem ganzen Leben nur einmal mehr als 20 Meilen von seiner Farm abwesend gewesen. Nur einmal, am 6. Oktober 1903, reiste er mit seinem Bruder Andreas nach Ohio und besuchte seine dortigen Vettern, wobei er zahlreiche Freunde traf, die er seit 50 Jahren nicht gesehen hatte. Diese Reise gefiel ihm ganz ungemein.



Daniel und Katharina Ritter hatten 8 Kinder, von denen das jüngste, ein Mädchen, jung starb, während 2 Söhne und 5 Töchter noch am Leben sind. Auch sie wohnen sämmtlich in Jowa.

1. Philip, geboren 1. März 1864.
2. Philipina, geboren 19. Januar 1866.
3. Katharina, geboren 23. Januar 1868.
4. Elisabeth, geboren 11. Januar 1871.
5. Mary T., geboren 28. November 1873.
6. Johann, geboren 8. Dezember 1876.
7. Amanda, geboren 3. November 1879.
8. Ida M., geboren 16. September 1883.

### Philipina Ritter-Scherz.

**Tochter von John Philip und Katharina Ritter, geboren am 6. März 1838 in Breunigweiler.**

Phoebe Philipina Ritter wanderte in ihrem 18. Lebensjahre 1856 mit Verwandten und Freunden nach Amerika aus. Die Ueberfahrt nahm in einem Segelschiffe 47 Tage in Anspruch und während dieser Zeit hatten die Passagiere mancherlei Gefahren zu bestehen. Am 23. Tage der Fahrt wäre ihr Schiff beinahe mit einem großen Eisberge collidirt, was Allen gewaltigen Schrecken einjagte. Alle Passagiere waren seefrank, nur Philipina blieb gesund und munter. Sie kamen schließlich glücklich in New York an. Hier besuchte Philipina einige Freunde und sah sich die Stadt an, die einen großartigen Eindruck auf sie machte, und dann trat sie ihre Reise nach dem Westen an. Sie hielt zuerst in Columbus, Ohio, an, wo sie drei Monate als Dienstmädchen thätig war, um das Geld für die Fortsetzung ihrer Reise zu verdienen. Dann fuhr sie mit einem Dampfer den Ohio hinab bis nach St. Louis und von da nach Keokuk, Iowa. Da damals dort noch eine Eisenbahn existirte, mußte sie per Wagen nach Ottumwa fahren, das damals nur 500 Einwohner hatte, während es jetzt eine Stadt von 25,000 Einwohnern mit zahlreichen großen und schönen Gebäuden und Anlagen ist. Von da reiste sie nach der 12 Meilen von Ottumwa entfernten Wohnung ihrer Tante. Auf dem Wege dahin sah sie nur zwei Blockhäuser, während man jetzt in einer Entfernung von weniger als  $\frac{1}{2}$  Meile auf Häuser stößt. Auch sah sie während dieser Fahrt zahlreiche Indianer-Lager. Sie besuchte nun ihre Tante und Brüder auf kurze Zeit und trat dann in Fremont, Ia., als Dienstmädchen in Aktivität. Dort machte sie die Bekanntschaft des Joseph Scherz, mit dem sie sich am 25. Januar 1857 verheirathete.

Joseph Scherz war am 9. Januar 1812 in Lothringen, damals eine französische, jetzt eine deutsche Provinz, geboren. Er wanderte 1833 nach Amerika aus und seine Mutter und seine Schwester kamen mit ihm, wobei er die Reisekosten für dieselben bezahlte. Die Reise über den Ozean dauerte 47 Tage und die Reisenden hatten schwer durch Seefrankheit zu leiden. Joseph Scherz arbeitete nun, nachdem er in New York gelandet, ein Jahr lang auf einer Farm in der Nachbarschaft, um Geld für die Fortsetzung seiner Reise zu verdienen, wobei er 50 Cents per Tag verdiente. Er reiste dann weiter nach Trenton, Ohio, wurde Müller und blieb

diesem Geschäfte 20 Jahre lang treu, wobei er sich viel Geld sparte. Als dann der allgemeine Auszug nach dem Westen begann, beschloß auch er, nach dem Westen zu gehen und sich dort niederzulassen. Er kam nun von Cincinnati per Dampfer nach Burlington, Ia., kaufte sich dort ein Fuhrwerk und setzte in diesem die Reise nach dem Westen fort. Er kaufte dann in Section 4, Dahlonega Township, Wapello County, eine Farm von 222 Aekern für \$10 per Acker und begann dieselbe mit viel Glück zu bewirthschaften. Heute würde er seine Farm nicht für \$100 per Acker verkaufen. Joseph Zcherz ist jetzt 93 Jahre alt, ließt noch ohne Brille und allem Anschein nach ist sein Gesundheitszustand ein guter. Aus seiner Ehe mit Philipina Ritter sind 13 Kinder entsprossen, von denen 2 starben, während 2 Söhne und 9 Töchter noch am Leben sind, nämlich:

1. Philip A. Zcherz, geboren 22. Dezember 1858.
2. Matharina, geboren 22. Februar 1859.
3. Theresia, geboren 27. April 1860.
4. Mathilda, geboren 21. September 1862.
5. Philipina, geboren 2. Juni 1866.
6. Joseph C., geboren 2. Juni 1868.
7. Louisa, geboren 9. Januar 1872.
8. Carolina, geboren 22. Januar 1875.
9. Flora, geboren 30. August 1877.
10. Jimie Man, geboren am 7. Dezember 1880.

### Elisabeth Ritter-Meier.

**Achtes Kind von John Philip und Katharina Ritter, geboren 15. Juli 1839 in  
Breunigweiler.**

Elisabeth Ritter kam mit ihren Eltern im Jahre 1857 nach Amerika und lebte mit diesen bis zum 28. September 1858, wann sie Georg Meier heirathete. Meier ward am 1. Oktober 1823 in Ratholsburg bei Nürnberg in Bayern geboren, wanderte 1848 in dieses Land ein und arbeitete zuerst 4 Jahre auf einer Farm in Ohio, worauf auch er nach Iowa auswanderte. Er kaufte 80 Acker Land in Benton Township, Keokuk County, und lebte dort 5 Jahre. Er heirathete dann, aber als er 6 Jahre verheirathet war, mußte er in den Krieg ziehen und seine Frau und zwei Kinder allein lassen. Er war 9 Monate lang Soldat und hatte manche Gefahren zu bestehen und viel Unannehmlichkeiten auszustehen. Er machte die Kingston Schlacht mit. Nach dem Kriege kehrte er auf seine Farm zurück und begann die Bewirthschaftung derselben mit allem Eifer. Er vergrößerte die Farm um 360 Acker. Später verkaufte er einen Theil derselben und vertheilte den Rest unter seine Kinder. 1893 verließ er die Farm und zog nach Hedrick, kehrte aber nach einem Jahre nach seinem alten Heim zurück, in dem er jetzt noch lebt. Georg Meier ist ein guter Gatte und Vater. Er ist jetzt über 80 Jahre alt, noch sehr thätig und kann noch ohne Brille lesen. Im Herbst 1903 reiste er nach Missouri und besuchte dort mehrere Städte, u. A. St. Louis, wo er die Gebäude sah, die für die große Weltausstellung in 1904 erbaut wurden. Elisabeth Ritter-Meier ist eine gute Frau und Mutter, ihrem Gatten und ihren Kindern treu ergeben. Ihre Ehe wurde mit elf Kindern gesegnet. Vier derselben starben in der Kindheit, während sieben, vier Söhne und drei Töchter noch am Leben sind. Diese Kinder leben sämmtlich in der Nähe ihrer Eltern. Ihre Namen sind:

1. Georg Meier, geboren 5. August 1859.
2. Philip, geboren 4. November 1867.
3. Friedrich, geboren 4. April 1869.
4. Theresia, geboren 12. Februar 1872.
5. Mathilda, geboren 6. Juni 1876.
6. Wilhelm, geboren 19. August 1878.
7. Louisa, geboren 26. Januar 1882.

## Wilhelm Ritter

Geboren zu Brennigweiler den 6. Juli 1843.

Wilhelm Ritter erhielt seine Schulbildung in Brennigweiler und wurde auch dort confirmirt in der Kirche. Wilhelm kam mit seinen Eltern nach Amerika welche sich in Neokus County, Iowa, niederließen; er beschäftigte sich mit Ackerbau, mehrere Jahre zu Hause und später bei Herrn Palmer. Im August 1867 besuchte er in Gesellschaft seines Vaters und Cousin Philip Ackermann, seine Verwandten im Staate Ohio, in der Nähe von Hamilton und Cincinnati; es gefiel ihm dort so außergewöhnlich gut, daß er nach beendigung seines Besuches in Ohio zurückblieb und sein Vater und Ackermann allein ihre Reise nach Hause antreten mußten. Wilhelm blieb im Staate Ohio bis zum Jahre 1869. Während seines Aufenthaltes machte er die Bekanntschaft mit einer Louisa Schwärzel, eine Schwester der Frau unseres Cousins Philip Baier, und heirathete dieselbe am 19. November 1868; im folgenden Jahre zogen sie nach dem Staate Iowa. Wilhelm betrieb dort das Geschäft eines Bauersmann, war in der ersten Zeit sehr Erfolgreich später aber hatte seine Familie durch Krankheit viel zu leiden, seine Frau und Kinder starben, eines nach dem andern, bis auf zwei. Durch dieses Schicksal sah er sich veranlaßt, seine Bauerei zu verkaufen. Nach dem er sein Land verkauft hatte zog er nach South Dakota und kaufte in der Nähe von Huron eine Bauerei von 320 Acker Land, worauf er und seine zwei Kinder jetzt wohnen, geht ihnen gut und erfreuen sich bester Gesundheit. Aus dieser Ehe entsprangen zehn Kinder von denen noch zwei das Leben erhalten.

Otto Fritz, geboren 26. Juni 1887.

Anna Carolina, geboren 21. Februar 1891.

## Selbst-Biographie von Andreu Ritter.

**Neuntes Kind von Johann Philip und Katharina Ritter, geboren in Brennigweiler.**

Andrew Ritter kam 1857 in seinem 16. Lebensjahre mit seinen Eltern nach Amerika. Ueber seine Reise schreibt er :

„Wir fuhren mit der „Salephagis,“ einem großen Segelschiff, das 960 Passagiere hatte. Wir hatten eine besondere Kajüte neben der des Kapitäns, wo wir alle möglichen Bequemlichkeiten hatten. Als wir 20 Tage auf dem Wasser waren, starb einer von den Passagieren, eine alte Dame. Gegen Abend, kurz vor Einbruch der Dunkelheit, band man ihre Leiche auf ein Brett und ließ dies über Bord ins Meer gleiten, wo die großen Fische, die das Schiff umkreisten, dieselbe wohl schnell verzehrt haben werden. Einige Tage später wurde meine Schwester Theresa krank und starb — wenigstens behauptete der Doktor, sie sei todt und legte ihre angebliche Leiche fünf Stunden lang aus. Als die Matrosen sich dann anschickten, ihre Leiche auf ein Brett zu binden und ins Meer zu werfen, begann meine gute Mutter Theresa zu schütteln und sie betete zu Gott, ihr ihr Kind zurückzugeben. Und Theresa erwachte aus ihrem todtähnlichen Schlafe. Der Doktor wurde geholt, gab meiner Schwester Medizin und bald war sie wieder gesund und munter, wie man aus ihrer Biographie auf einer andern Seite dieses Buches ersehen wird.

„Unser Schiff war 42 Tage auf See. Nachdem wir in New York angekommen, ging ich mit meinem Vater nach einer Bank, wo wir \$4,500 erhoben, auf welche Summe unser Check ausgestellt war. Das Geld wurde uns in \$20 Goldstücken ausgezahlt, die hoch aufgethürmt vor uns auf dem Zählische lagen. Ich hörte, wie einige Leute den großen Goldhaufen sahen, dem Bankier sagten, wenn wir so viel Geld hätten, brauchten wir nicht mehr zu arbeiten. Aber wir fanden bald aus, daß es anders kam. Wir schleppten dieses Gold von New York nach Iowa. Das war in der Zeit der Goldwährung.

„Wir fuhren dann mit der Bahn nach Burlington, Ia., aber da von dort die Eisenbahn nicht weiter führte, mußten wir ein Fuhrwerk kaufen, um unsere Sachen fortzuschaffen, und die Familie ging den größten Theil des 85 Meilen langen Weges bis in die Nähe von Ottumwa, damals eine Stadt von weniger wie 500 Einwohnern.



„Wir kauften hier 80 Acker Land und all das Vieh und die Farmgeräthe und Maschinen, die der Farmer hatte, und außerdem für \$300 in Gold ein Gespann Pferde. Diese Pferde waren so freundlich, schon im ersten Jahre zu verenden, worauf wir für \$150 ein Gespann Ochsen kauften, die sich auf der Farm sehr gut bewährten. Wir brauchten aber noch Pferdegeschirr, Wagen und einen Kochofen und unser Bruder John ging nach Keokuk, um dieselben zu kaufen. Diese Stadt lag 85 Meilen entfernt und die Reise hin und zurück dauerte 8 Tage.

„Wir arbeiteten nun zusammen auf der Farm, bis ich über 24 Jahre alt war. Dann kaufte ich für mich selbst eine Farm von 120 Acker Land und heirathete Frä. Louisa W. Städtler. Diese war am 6. Oktober 1844 in Frankfurt an der Oder geboren und kam 1857 mit ihren Eltern nach Amerika.“

1876 unternahm Andrew Ritter eine Reise nach Philadelphia zur Centennial Welt-Ausstellung. Er fuhr Morgens 7 Uhr von Ottumwa ab und kam am nächsten Abend um 6 Uhr in Philadelphia an. Der Zug legte oft 70 Meilen in einer Stunde zurück. In Philadelphia besuchte er die Unabhängigkeitshalle, saß in dem Stuhle, in dem George Washington in seinem Hause gesessen, sah die Freiheitsglocke, welche die Freiheit und Unabhängigkeit für dieses Land eingeläutet etc. Andrew Ritter wurde in Philadelphia von seinem Cousin Philip J. Ritter und dessen liebenswürdigen Frau sehr freundlich aufgenommen und dieselben gaben sich alle erdenkliche Mühe, seinen Aufenthalt in ihrer Mitte so angenehm wie möglich zu machen und ihnen alles Zehenswerthe zu zeigen.

1888 unternahm Andrew Ritter eine Reise nach dem Westen, um sich nach einer neuen Heimath umzusehen. Nach zwei Wochen kaufte er 160 Acker Land in der Nähe von Sioux City, Iowa. Dort wurde damals ein neuer Landstrich für Ansiedler erschlossen und acht seiner Nachbarn folgten ihm dorthin nach und alle kauften Land für \$5 bis \$8 per Acker. Im Laufe von 15 Jahren ist dieses Land im Preise auf \$50 bis \$80 per Acker gestiegen. Andrew behielt dieses Land vier Jahre, verkaufte es dann für den doppelten Preis, den er dafür bezahlt, und unternahm dann noch drei Reisen westwärts, wobei er weitere 140 Acker Land kaufte.

1893 besuchte er die Ausstellung in Chicago und machte zwei Reisen nach Ohio, die letzte gemeinsam mit seinem Bruder Daniel.

1890 wurde Andrew's Gesundheitszustand beeinträchtigt und seine Familie hielt es daher für's Beste, nach der Stadt Hendrick zu gehen. Er kaufte dort ein hübsches Haus, aber kaum hatte er sich in demselben mit seiner Gattin heimisch gemacht, als diese krank wurde und starb. Nur 11 Monate hatte sie in dem neuen Hause gelebt. Sie hinterließ ihren trauernden Gatten und sieben Kinder. Andrew kam nach einiger Zeit zur Ueberzeugung, daß es nicht lohnend sei, seine

Arm noch länger zu verpachten; er verkaufte daher seine Ländereien und nachdem seine Töchter geheirathet, vertheilte er seine Haushaltungsgeräthe unter seine Kinder und lebt seitdem mit diesen. Seit 14 Jahren hat seine Gesundheit schwer durch Rheumatismus und Katarrh gelitten und sein Gehör ist dadurch schwer beeinträchtigt worden, so daß er dadurch für jedes Geschäft unfähig geworden ist.

Andrew's Ehe mit Louisa Städler entsprossen neun Kinder, von denen drei starben, während zwei Töchter und vier Söhne noch am Leben sind.

1. Frederick William, geboren 21. November 1866.
2. Henry C., geboren 15. September 1868, gestorben 21. Juli 1870.
3. John Andrew, geboren 28. Februar 1871.
4. George Washington, geboren 12. Dezember 1873.
5. Herman Joseph, geboren 1. Juli 1875, gestorben 3. Juni 1878.
6. Albert, geboren 20. Dezember 1877, gestorben 16. Februar 1903.
7. Maria Katharina, geboren 15. Mai 1882.
8. Minnie Ann, geboren 15. Mai 1882.
9. Frank Valentine, geboren 14. Februar 1888.

### Katharina Ritter-Kühlkopf.

**Tochter von John Philip Ritter, geboren in Brennigweiler im März 1845.**

Katharina Ritter kam mit ihren Eltern nach Amerika und ließ sich mit ihren Eltern auf einer Farm in Neotus County, Ia., nieder, wo sie blieb, bis sie 1862 John Kühlkopf heirathete. Dieser ward in Württemberg bei Göppingen im 1832 geboren und wanderte am 25. April 1857 nach den Ver. Staaten aus. Seine Reise in einem Segelschiffe nahm 47 Tage in Anspruch. Er landete in New York und reiste dann nach Ottumwa, Iowa, wo er eine Farm pachtete und diese zwei Jahre bewirthschafte. Er zog dann nach Monroe County, wo er 80 Acker Land kaufte. Dann heirathete er Katharina Ritter und sie lebten dann bis 1862 auf dieser Farm, worauf sie 80 Acker Land in Highland Township, Wapello County, kauften und diese seit jener Zeit bewirthschafte und kauften noch 380 Acker dazu. Diese Farm ist jetzt ein sehr werthvolles Grundstück mit schönem Wohngebäude und allen nöthigen Nebengebäuden. Aus der Ehe dieses Paares entsprangen zehn Kinder, fünf Töchter und fünf Söhne, die sämmtlich noch am Leben sind. Ihre Namen folgen:

1. Elisabeth Kühlkopf, geboren 20. März 1864.
2. Katharina, geboren 7. September 1866.
3. John B., geboren 30. Oktober 1868.
4. Clara Theresia, geboren 1. Mai 1870.
5. Emma, geboren 19. April 1872.
6. Wilhelm, geboren 20. November 1875.
7. Karl G., geboren 18. Oktober 1879.
8. Philip, geboren 19. September 1882.
9. Leonard H., geboren 3. Oktober 1884.
10. Edith Victoria, geboren 25. Mai 1889.

## Friedrich Ritter.

**Jüngster Sohn von Johann Philip Ritter, von Brennigweiler.**

Friedrich Ritter kam im Alter von zehn Jahren mit seinen Eltern nach Amerika. Vorher hatte er die Schule in Brennigweiler besucht und gute Fortschritte gemacht, so daß er gut schreiben, lesen und rechnen konnte, als er hier ankam. Nach seiner Ankunft in Iowa besuchte er in der Nähe seiner neuen Heimath die englische Schule und machte unter ungünstigen Verhältnissen gute Fortschritte, denn gute Lehrer sind in diesen Landschulen öfters selten. Er besuchte dann eine höhere Schule und erwarb sich die für's Leben nöthigen Schulkenntniße. Nach der Schulzeit blieb er im Hause seines Vaters, erlernte die Oekonomie und war eine gute Stütze für seine Eltern, denn sein Vater war schon alt und nicht mehr rüstig. Als Friedrich 24 Jahre alt war, starb sein Vater am 22. Januar 1871. Derselbe hatte ein Testament hinterlassen, in dem er Friedrich zum Testamentsvollstrecker ernannt hatte, dessen Pflichten Friedrich übernahm und sie mit Gewissenhaftigkeit und Treue ausübte. Friedrich übernahm dann die Farm seines Vaters auf seine eigene Rechnung. Seine Mutter blieb bei ihm wohnen bis sie 1888, 17 Jahre nach dem Tode ihres Gatten, ebenfalls das Zeitliche segnete. Am 28. September 1871 verheirathete sich Friedrich Ritter mit Katharina Philipina Holzhauser, die in Waposo County, Iowa, geboren ward. Die Ehe derselben ist eine glückliche, denn beide Gatten sind gewissenhaft, liebevoll und verträglich. Diese Ehe wurde mit acht Kindern gesegnet, denen Philipina stets eine gute, sorgsame und liebevolle Mutter gewesen ist. Friedrich und Philipina wohnen noch auf der Farm, die Friedrich von seinem Vater übernommen hatte, nur ist dieselbe jetzt bedeutend vergrößert. Friedrich hat noch einige hundert Acker Land dazu gekauft, ein großes, stattliches und schönes Haus an Stelle der alten Farmhäuser errichtet und noch zahlreiche Nebengebäude aufgeführt. Fleiß und Ordnungssinn wurden bei ihm mit Erfolg gekrönt. Friedrich hatte lange Jahre keine Zeit, sich von seinem Geschäft und von seiner Familie zu trennen um zu reisen, aber 1893 folgte er einer Einladung seines Veters Philip J. Ritter, der damals in Chicago lebte, zum Besuche der dortigen Ausstellung, der er mit seinem Bruder Andreas Folge leistete und sie waren in Chicago die Gäste ihres Veters. Was er dort sah, versetzte Friedrich in großes Erstaunen, es war Alles neu und überraschend für ihn und nie wird er die

Liebenswürdigkeit vergessen, mit der sein Vetter Philip und dessen liebenswürdige Gattin ihnen entgegen kamen und mit der sie sich bestreben, ihnen den Aufenthalt so angenehm wie möglich zu machen. Nach einem Aufenthalte von zwei Wochen reisten beide Brüder im höchsten Grade befriedigt nach Hause zurück.

Die Namen der Kinder sind :

1. Maria Elisabeth, geboren 24. Juni 1872.
2. Katharina W., geboren 3. Februar 1874.
3. Philip J., geboren 23. Juni 1876.
4. Maria Christina, geboren 9. März 1879.
5. Friedrich Henry, geboren 14. Oktober 1882.
6. Phoebe Theresia, geboren 27. Juli 1885.
7. Clara Sophia, geboren 16. Oktober 1888.
8. Lulu Junie, geboren 29. Oktober 1892.

**Theresia Ritter-Holzhausen.**

**Jüngste Tochter von Philip Ritter, geboren in Brennigweiler am 1. Oktober 1848.**

Theresia Ritter verheirathete sich am 5. Oktober 1871 mit Adolph Wilhelm Holzhäuser, der in Havre de Grace in Frankreich geboren ward, während seine Eltern dort auf die Abfahrt eines Schiffes warteten, das sie dann nach den Vereinigten Staaten brachte.

Theresia Ritter war noch sehr jung, als sie mit ihren Eltern nach Amerika kam und hatte noch wenig Schule genossen. Sie besuchte nur die Schule in der Nähe ihres Wohnortes in Keokuk County, Iowa. Sie war in ihrer Jugend ein schönes Mädchen und eine gute Hülfse für ihre Mutter und dann eine treue und hilfreiche Gattin und eine gute Mutter.

**Adolph W. Holzhäuser**

kam mit seinen Eltern von Louisville, Ky., nach Iowa, wurde auf dem Lande erzogen und lernte fleißig, um sich ein gutes Fortkommen zu sichern. Er wohnte mit seinen Eltern auf einer 160 Acker großen Farm mit sehr gutem Boden, wo sie Ackerbau und Viehzucht betrieben und viel Glück hatten. Er und seine Familie sind lutherischen Glaubens, sie haben viele Freunde und sind sehr angesehen. Aus ihrer Ehe entsprossen folgende 9 Kinder :

1. Mary, geboren 17. Juli 1872.
2. Lizzie, geboren 4. Februar 1875.
3. Clara, geboren 8. Juli 1876.
4. George P., geboren 8. Mai 1877.
5. John, geboren 29. September 1878.
6. Joseph A., geboren 11. Juni 1880.
7. Karl, geboren 4. August 1883.
8. Wilhelm, geboren 6. Juli 1886.
9. Margaret, geboren 8. Juli 1889.



Genieße was dir Gott beschieden,  
Entbehre gerne was du nicht hast,  
Denn jeder Stand hat seinen Frieden,  
Ein jeder Stand hat seine Last.

---

Jeder Mann recht gethan,  
Ist eine Kunst die Niemand kann;  
Kommt aber einer der sagen kann  
Er habe jeder Mann recht gethan,  
So bitt' ich ihn mit aller Ehr,  
Daß er mich diese Kunst auch lehr'.



WASHINGTON STATUE, at Entrance to Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, Erected in Honor of the Father of His Country.





## A NOBLE KNIGHT.

(Translation of the Toast "Ein Ritter.")

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To the Noble Knight  
 That high his sword for liberty swings,  
 In deed and word the truth defends  
 With emotions sweetly  
 The songs of his country sweetly sings.  
 First in mind the maid he loves,  
 To her presents the best of drinks,  
 To this Noble Knight fill the loving cup,  
 With the best of wine to the brim,  
 Greet with a thousand welcomes him  
 As a brother of the fraternal realm.

## Genealogy of the Ritter Family

The name Ritter dates far back in the early history of Germany. Just where the name Ritter originated the writer has been unable to fathom, and also unable to find out the locality of the early ancestors of our family.

The name Ritter was a title given to men for some act of bravery in wars. The name is also equivalent to the name of knight in the English language and chevalier in the French language. There were many that were created Ritters or Knights during the wars of the Crusades. Many of these and their descendants have won insignia of the Cross.

Before the invention and use of gunpowder, wars and warfare were mostly conducted with hand-to-hand combats or fights. The cavalry in those days was called Ritter from riding or being mounted on a horse. These Ritters did their fighting by hand-to-hand combats with sword and spear, and there were many of them who had their bodies protected by an armor, or covering of some metal, to ward off the thrusts of the sword or spear of the enemy. Their head was protected by a helmet and the face by a helmet that extended for protection over the head, so that there was nothing visible of the rider except the shape of his person. These Ritters were renowned for their fearless courage and bravery.

There have been many orders created of Ritters by the crowned heads of Europe. Men who have become distinguished by some act of valor or some act for the good of humanity, have been received into, and decorated with, the insignia of these different orders. In the United States of America there are also orders of Ritters, or so-called Knights, first and foremost of which is the Knights Templar, Knights of Pythias, Knights of Columbus and many others. To the American order of Knights only such men as are worthy of the name can become members.

The exact locality where our ancestors came from when they settled in the Palatinate or Rheinpfalz, the writer has been unable to ascertain. The family were related to many of the leading families that lived in the Palatinate during my father's and grandfather's time, but how the relationship came about I have not been able to find out. I cannot go back any further in the records than is given in this book, as all previous records were destroyed when the Rathaus, or Town Hall, of Altleiningen was burned.

Mr. H. Kaercher, the present owner and resident of the Neuhoof, has made every endeavor to trace back the history, and says in a letter written to me in 1890 that he has reason to believe that the Ritter family lived in the Neuhoof in the Seventeenth Century. On what evidence Mr. Kaercher bases his belief I am unable to say, unless it be from some cornerstone or something about the buildings that I have not heard of. The writer saw a stone water-trough cut out of one solid piece of brown stone, about 5 ft. long and about 3 ft. high, that has the initials C. R. and C. M. on the side, meaning Christian Ritter and Christian Miller. The date was 1792. This trough receives the flow of water that supplies the place and is conducted there from a spring from the mountain across the valley on the southern side.

I have had verbally from my father that the family came from the south of Germany, either Wuerttemberg or Baden near the border of Switzerland, but just when they left that country is also unknown to me.

Having explained the name of Ritter and its origin and the origin of our particular branch or part of the Ritter family as near as I have been able to ascertain, I will let this explanation rest with this writing.

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## GERMANY

Germany, the land of our forefathers, is situated in central Europe. It extends from north to south for about eight hundred miles, and from east to west six hundred miles. Northern Germany is for the most part level, whilst central Germany is diversified by several mountain chains. Higher mountains, however, are found in southern Germany; these are the so-called spurs of the Alps.



Five majestic streams traverse the old country, namely, proceeding from the east, we have the Vistula, Oder, Elbe, Weser and the Rhine, whilst another grand stream, the Danube, flows through the southern portion of the German Empire. All of these rivers empty into the sea; that is, the Vistula and the Oder flow into the Baltic; the Elbe, Weser, and the Rhine into the North Sea, whilst the Danube empties into the Euxine or Black Sea. All of these streams are navigable for considerable distances. This is especially true of the Rhine, which, during the Summer and Autumn, is frequented by more freight boats, tug boats, and passenger steam-boats than any river in Europe. The saloon steamers carry large numbers of Americans. These steamers ply from Cologne to Mayence through the picturesque valley of the Rhine with its vineclad hills, interspersed with ruins and castles old in story. This valley is bounded on the west by the Hardt and the Vogese Mountains, whilst it extends eastward as far as the Black and the Oden Forest Mountains.

Both of these mountain chains (the Hardt and the Vogese) are in the Pfalz, situated at a distance of from fifteen to twenty miles from the Rhine. The soil of the valley of the Rhine is fertile, and pre-eminently adapted to agriculture. From the mountains that surround it, innumerable streams, that make the meadows green, pour their waters into old father Rhine.

Sombre forests clothe these mountains, whose craggy tops are crowned with castle ruins, mute witnesses of bygone glory. And yet these glorious days of old were by no means balmy for the peaceable dwellers in this tranquil valley, for they were compelled to perform irksome feudal services and to pay heavy tribute to all the predatory feudal sovereigns, both great and small, who for centuries, perched in their mountain fastnesses, lorded it with a high hand over their vassals.

The lower slopes of the Hardt and the Vogese Mountains in the Pfalz are covered with vineyards, with groves of chestnut and almond trees. Still further down, grain of all kinds is raised, but chiefly rye and wheat; whilst close to the Rhine, hops, tobacco and sugar beets are cultivated.

The land dwelt in by our ancestors is called the Palatinate, a name given it by the Romans, who almost 2000 years ago constructed strat-

erie roads through the country, built strongholds, and founded cities here. Numerous memorials of these ancient colonizers are visible to the present day in the Rhenish Palatinate. The proximity of this country to France has been the source of severe sufferings to the people thereof, for during numerous wars this borderland was overrun by powerful armies, and the toil of its thrifty husbandmen trodden underfoot.

The climate of the western portion of the Palatinate is rough, the soil is less fertile, though abounding in minerals, coal, iron, copper and silver. The exploitation of this mineral wealth was anciently very meagre, because the means of transportation were very primitive. Nowadays it is quite different, for railways and steamers convey all natural products to the great commercial and industrial cities, whence, fabricated by art, they are exported.

Many are the rulers that have swayed over the Palatinate, and extraneous lords at that, whose sole object was to extort as much money as possible from their subjects. The most glorious and renowned time in the history of the Palatinate was when the Electoral Princes, who resided at Heidelberg, held sway.

The year 1692 was fraught with a dreadful calamity, inasmuch as the French under Louis XIV General Melack devastated the Palatinate with fire and sword in such a degree that many inhabitants fled to friendlier lands. Many emigrated to America at the close of the Seventeenth and at the beginning of the Eighteenth Centuries. From this epoch the German settlement in the State of Pennsylvania began, and here the Palatinate dialect of the German language has been preserved for upwards of two centuries, and is loved and cherished still by the descendants of those persecuted by the French.

In A. D. 1825, the Rhenish Palatinate came into the possession of the Kingdom of Bavaria, being known as the "Rheinkreis." The old house of Wittelsbach being extinct in Bavaria, the lateral branch succeeded to the throne of Bavaria in the Electoral Prince of the Palatinate, King Maximilian I, 1825, being the first Palatinate ruler of Bavaria. Notwithstanding the fact that the Palatinate is governed by Bavaria, the country has, nevertheless, since 1800, enjoyed considerable privileges as compared with other German lands, by virtue of the laws received from the first French Republic. Napoleon I was the promul-

gator of these laws which are hence called the "Code Napoleon." This code secured for the Palatinate religious liberty and freedom of trade, as well as independence and exemption from taxation by the numerous petty nobles and liege-lords, who formerly bled the country. At the same time compulsory education was introduced. At the present day the schools are non-sectarian, being supported by the various common ties, whilst the Church has lost the greater part of her influence in the management of the schools. The taxes our ancestors had to pay were heavy indeed. Not only were they taxed for the farms, houses, manors, horses, cattle, and dogs they possessed—nay, even the light of day that entered their window-panes was rated according to the number of window-panes.

But by far the most crying outrage consisted in the so-called predial tithes, or tenth part of the product of their farms harvested, which product they had to let stand upon their fields as tribute for their liege-lord, who would send forth his bailiffs to gather in this tenth part of the toil of his subjects and store it up in so-called tithe barns, in which these tithes were put to sale, and the money realized was squandered to pamper the voluptuous passions of a lordling. The present system of taxation is uniform and just, consisting of a small percentage on one's income, whilst those whose income is less than \$225.00 a year are not taxed at all. These taxes are proportionately distributed among the State, the Community, and the Church. These three bodies must render a public account to the people concerning the mode of employment of the taxes, which can be expended only in furtherance of the common weal.

The monetary system of the olden time presented a motley picture. There were coins of all kinds and values. For almost every petty state coined its own money according to its own valuation. Hence there were Carolines (eleven florins), Louis d'ors (five dollars), five franc Thalers, Prussian Thalers, Crown Thalers, six Batzen and three Batzen pieces, Kreutzer, Groschen, and what not! Trafficking in the market-places was rendered exceedingly complicated, as all these values had to be reckoned over and over and to be taken into the bargain, hence great care was necessary, for fraud was rampant, and miscalculations galore. When a dealer had transacted business, he would strap all these coins in a leathern girth-wallet about his body, a burden

whose weight increased and sorely pressed the wanderer on his homeward way, though being safest carried thus. At the present day there is but one monetary system throughout the German Empire, which system consists of marks and pfennige. A mark is reckoned at 25c. United States money, and consists of a hundred pfennige. Hence, a pfennig is the least copper coin, and although almost as big and as thick as a cent, it is worth but one-quarter of a cent; therefore four pfennige equal one cent. In Germany, too, there have been for many years artistically executed bank-notes, drafts and bills of exchange, whereby transactions are facilitated in a high degree. The entire monetary system of Germany is regulated by the Imperial Bank, and since A. D. 1871, it is upon as firm a basis as the American banking system. Of course, the German peasant and the German business man no longer carries his stock and store of money in a leathern girth-wallet around his waist, but they keep their money in a bank or savings fund, whilst keeping their check books in their pockets. All is changed now, you can hardly fancy that there was an olden time, and were it not for the ancient, yet still existing, markets and for tradition, you would think the whilom peasants and traders trudging afoot and awagon for days, their whole fortune strapped round their body,—why, you would think them a foolish myth!





INDEPENDENCE HALL, Philadelphia, Pa. The Birthplace of Liberty.







#### LIBERTY BELL

The Bell that proclaimed the blessing of Liberty throughout all the Land and to the Inhabitants thereof, July 4, 1776



## George Christian Ritter

### His Family and his Descendants

#### A FULL REGISTER OF THE WHOLE FAMILY

Our great grandfather, George Christian Ritter, born 1735, was the owner of a very valuable estate of two hundred acres of land called the "Neuhof," situated in the valley of the Karlsbach, near the town of Altleiningen, in the Rhenish Palatinate, Bavaria, Germany.

He married and had two children, a son, George Christian, born about 1760, and a daughter, Dorothea Magdalena, born about 1763. George Christian, the younger, married Eva Schreiner of Wattenheim, and Dorothea Magdalena was married to Christian Miller. The estate was divided equally between the two children, each receiving one hundred acres of land and half of the Neuhof buildings. These buildings were capacious and formed a hollow square with a large yard in the centre, the two dwellings facing outwards, to the east and west respectively. The one facing eastward commanded a fine view of the valley. My grandfather, George Christian Ritter, received this dwelling, wherein all his children were born.

The Neuhof buildings are situated on an elevation, overlooking the valley of the Karlsbach, the town of Altleiningen, and the stupendous ruins of the castle of the Prince of Leiningen.

George Christian Ritter and his wife, nee Eva Schreiner, had inherited considerable wealth, and were looked upon as very well-to-do in their time; but the long continued wars between Germany and France caused frightful hardships to the inhabitants of the Rhenish Palatinate, nor did our grandparents escape the general calamity. The country was overrun by armies that went foraging, plundering and harrying. This wretched condition of affairs lasted from 1789 to 1814. Failure of crops in 1816 and 1817 brought on a dire famine.

Grandfather George Christian Ritter and his wife lived happily together and were blessed with many children, but they had troubles that were beyond their control. Not the least of these were the long continued wars between the French and the Germans, from the year 1789 to 1815. These wars started with the war of the first French

Revolution, when the French marched forth from Alsace and Lorraine and proclaimed Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. The Fraternity was shown by levying heavy taxes and taking away everything valuable they could lay their hands on, until the invaders were driven back by the Prussians and the Austrians.

I will here relate an incident that happened about this time. One snowy, dreary winter afternoon, while the French held possession of the Leiningen Valley of which the Neuhof is a part, the Prussians and Austrians approached from a high hill on the north and opened a lively artillery fire on the French. This made the French retreat to the hills south of the Neuhof and answer with cannon. This brought the Neuhof, which lies on an elevation between the two forks of the valley, directly into the line of cross-firing of the two armies. Grandfather and Grandmother Ritter took their children and ran to the nearest woods about five hundred yards distant, in order to save their lives. As is customary in Germany, she carried the baby on a feather pillow. On reaching a place of safety in the woods, it was discovered that the baby had slipped from the pillow and was lost in the snow. In her fright and fear, Grandmother Ritter did not miss the baby. They walked back and found the baby and none the worse for having been lost in the snow: and it lived to a good old age. The Neuhof was not much damaged by the cannonade.

Another episode occurred when the French were driven back, defeated, and their places were taken by wild hordes of half-civilized Croats, Slavs, etc. They came with the Austrian army, and at their arrival Uncle Müller remarked joyfully: "Now comes our German brothers." But he soon recognized what a big mistake he had made.

As soon as these cohorts entered the Neuhof they took the shoes off the feet of the inhabitants and the clothes off their back.

In the year 1800, Napoleon Bonaparte assumed the ruling of France, of which the latter Palatinate was made a province and Grandfather Ritter's sons were drafted into the French army. Lorenz Philip and Johannes became French soldiers about 1810. The regiments they belonged to were commanded to march toward the Russian border as early as February 1812. My father, Johannes, was sick in the hospital at Boulogne Sur Mere, which is on the English Channel near Dover. He therefore could not march with the regiment. He,

however, marched in May with a battalion made up of convalescents from different regiments. When they reached the Russian border in September, news arrived that Moscow was burned and Napoleon was retreating. My father's, Johannes Ritter's, regiment was consigned to the fortress of Magdeburg and remained there until Napoleon was driven back into France, and peace established. They returned home in 1814. During all those years, from 1789 until 1814, Grandfather and Grandmother Ritter lived in fear and anxiety, not knowing what hour they would be called upon to make some sacrifice of children as soldiers, or of property in support of the war. However, bad as all these years had been, there were worse ones still in store for them.

In 1816 they had raised fine crops, but when the time came for harvesting, rainy weather set in all over Europe, so that very little of the crops could be harvested, but our grandparents had sufficient until next year. The first half of 1817 is known as one of the greatest famine years in history, and thousands of people died from hunger in various parts of Europe. The year 1818 was even worse for our grandparents: a cattle disease broke out in their stables, and they lost all their cattle (about twenty-five head). They then had their stables thoroughly cleaned and disinfected and bought another stock of cattle, but these also died. For a second time they had everything renovated, disinfected and cleaned and again bought another stock of cattle, but these fared the same as the others.

Dismayed, discouraged and in debt, something had to be done; they could not stay where they were. About this time there came a Mr. Neu, a friend of grandfather's. He had just returned from Russian Poland, whither he had gone on the invitation of the Russian Government to take a look at some land that had been abandoned by some Polish noblemen, and he had selected three pieces of land of 100 acres each. These he received at a lease of twenty years nominally free. As he wanted some friends to be his neighbors in Poland, he offered one of these tracts to my grandfather, who accepted it. Grandfather then sold out his property, and in 1819 moved to Russian Poland and took possession of one of the places selected by Mr. Neu.

The location was about twenty miles from the City of Warsaw, the capital of Poland, in the valley of the River Vistula, and the name of this town was Gunzig. Besides Mr. Neu's and grandfather's family,



another family went along. Not all of grandfather's family were willing to emigrate to Russia. Three sons, Lorenz Philip, Johannes, and John Philip would not go with their father but remained in the Palatinate. The other seven went along with their parents, but their son, Christian, stayed only one year and then came back in company with Mr. Neu, who had some business to settle in his old home. Christian never went back to Poland.

The distance from the Neuhof, from where grandfather started, to Russian Poland is about seven hundred English miles. At the time there were no steamboats nor railroads, and they had to go in their wagons over poor roads most of the way. The tour was a slow and tedious one; many hardships had to be endured, but they arrived finally at their destination and took possession of the land that Mr. Neu had selected. Here they settled down in the town Gunzig and dwelt for the remainder of their lives. Grandfather Ritter died about 1830 and grandmother about 1850. Their children were all married. I remember that we received a letter in 1844 from Uncle George Heinrich stating that grandmother was well, and that she had forty-four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, and at that time the four sons living in Germany had twenty-nine children, making a total of seventy-three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Uncle George Heinrich wrote us another letter in 1846, but I do not remember anything it contained, excepting that grandmother was living. If I remember correctly, Uncle Christian Ritter told me that he received a letter saying that Grandmother Eva Ritter died in 1850. I have often inquired of people who came from Poland, but have never met anyone that knew or heard anything of our relations.

George Christian Ritter was born about 1760 and his wife, Eva Ritter, nee Schreiner, about the year 1768. They were married in the year 1786 and out of this union the following children were born:

Lorenz Philip, born at the Neuhof in 1788.

Christian, born June 12, 1790.

Johannes, born May 2, 1792.

Magdalena, born in 1796.

John Philip, born June 24, 1801.

George Heinrich, born January 15, 1803.

Adams George, born March 7, 1806.

Barbara }  
Heinrich } twins, born September 9, 1807.

Dorothea, born July 9, 1809.

Simon, born September 12, 1812.

As stated before, all these children, excepting the three eldest sons, emigrated with their parents to Russian Poland about the year 1818 and they settled in a small town or village called "Gunzig."

I now take up that branch of the Ritter family that deals with the four sons who remained in the Palatinate. As stated before in this sketch, they were Lorenz Philip, Johannes, John Philip, and Christian. The first three had never gone to Russia, and the latter only remained a year and then returned home. Each of these brothers started out for themselves, working for a salary at various places in the Palatinate, excepting the youngest, John Philip, who went to live with Uncle Valentine Schreiner, a brother of Grandmother Ritter's, in Breunigweiler. Uncle Valentine Schreiner had large possessions of land and John Philip helped to cultivate the land for seven years. He married his uncle's daughter, his cousin, Katherina Schreiner.

## LORENZ PHILIP RITTER

### First Son of George Christian and Eva Ritter of Neuhof

Lorenz Philip, oldest son of George Christian and Eva Ritter, married and lived in Albisheim in the Rheinpfalz, Bavaria, Germany. His wife inherited considerable wealth. He followed the transportation business, hauling freight, mostly silver sand, to a glass factory about thirty miles in the west Rheinpfalz, and returning with glassware to Mannheim. He was very prosperous until the first railroad was built.

His wife died in the year 1846, and he retired from business and lived with one of his daughters, who had married and lived in the City of Mannheim on the Rhine and there he died.

Lorenz Philip Ritter had three sons and three daughters. The oldest son was named Philip, the second Christian, and the third Conrad. The daughters names were Eva, Magdalena, and Catherine. These six children all stayed in Germany, excepting the second son, Christian (born at Albisheim 1831).

## BIOGRAPHY OF CHRISTIAN RITTER

### Second Son of Lorenz Philip Ritter of Albisheim

Christian Ritter, from Albisheim, came to America in 1853. He first lived in Norwich, New York, where he married Lizzie Weber (born December 18, 1838). Then he came to Philadelphia. He was engaged in the business of polishing cutlery at first, but the last ten years of his life he was engaged in the fruit preserving business with his cousin, Philip J. Ritter. He died September 15, 1885. Christian had one son and four daughters, as follows:

Delia, born 1860, married W. Vandergrift, they have eight children.

Lizzie, born 1862, married Horace Williams; have no children.

Caroline, born at Philadelphia in 1864, who married E. Wambold; no children.

George, unmarried, born at Philadelphia 1867.

Louisa, unmarried, born at Philadelphia 1870.

Delia, oldest daughter of Christian B. Ritter, married William H. Vandergrift, of Frankford, near Philadelphia, on August 30, 1876. Mr. Vandergrift's business has been since his marriage almost continuously with his wife's cousin, P. J. Ritter, as a salesman. Up to the present time they have eight children living.

George R., born September 5, 1878.

William H., born April 6, 1882.

Elizabeth, born February 18, 1884.

Clarence W., born July 23, 1888.

Jennie M., born March 26, 1893.

Florence, born August 5, 1894.

Warren E., born June 5, 1896.

Delia, born April 4, 1898.

George R. Vandergrift's oldest son learned the printing business and carries on job printing on his own account, and is doing well. He is married and has two children.

William H. Vandergrift, his second son, is a salesman with his cousin, Philip J. Ritter.

## BIOGRAPHY OF CHRISTIAN RITTER

### Second Son of George Christian and Eva Ritter of the NeuhoF

Christian Ritter was born at the NeuhoF, near Altleiningen, June 12, 1790.

He received his education at the school at Altleiningen. After leaving school he was engaged on his father's farm until the father and family emigrated to Russian Poland. He went with the family, but did not like Poland and remained only one year when he returned to his own country, the Rheinpfalz, Germany. He suffered many hardships on his return, having to walk almost the entire distance of seven hundred miles, several times sleeping in the woods with a stone for a pillow.

Christian worked after his return at the flour mill of Mr. Sebastian Hammel, at Kirchheim an der Eck. He was well thought of by his employer and soon became manager of the mill, a position of honor and trust, which he filled for a number of years. He saved his earnings and accumulated quite a sum of money.

Christian made the acquaintance of Philipina Oswald, the only daughter and child of Heinrich and Marie Oswald, and they were married. Their home and property adjoined the mill.

After his marriage Christian engaged in the grain and transportation business, buying and selling grain and carrying it to the large markets of distant cities. After several years this ceased to be so profitable, and he gave his attention to farming, planting grain and fruit trees. He had bought and leased some land, so that, together with what his wife had inherited, they had enough of the world's possessions to live very comfortable.

Christian Ritter was about five feet seven inches in height, was broad shouldered and of well proportioned body. He was of a dark complexion, and had dark eyes and hair. He had an oval full featured face which always wore a cheerful expression. He had a good natured,



Philipina, wife of Christian Ritter, of Kirchheim an d. Eck.





jovial disposition, and was always square in his dealings. Altogether he was a broad, liberal minded citizen, and a conscientious, religious husband and father to his family

PHILIPINA OSWALD, wife of Christian Ritter, the subject of the foregoing biography, was born at Kirchheim an der Eck, January 8, 1810. She went to school at Kirchheim and, being a quick learner, she soon completed the studies at this school. She was confirmed at the age of fourteen years at the Protestant Church at Kirchheim.

After leaving school she assisted her mother at household duties until she was eighteen years of age when she was married to Christian Ritter. Their married life was a very happy one, and Philipina was a very good Christian and a conscientious, cheerful and energetic wife. She was a good housekeeper and great assistant to her husband.

They had six children. The first child named Heinrich died when four years old. The other five, four sons and one daughter lived to manhood. The four sons left home to seek their fortunes in the New World. The daughter Elizabeth stayed with her mother and father.

Their children were:—

Jakob Ritter was born July 1, 1830.

Christian Ritter was born 1832.

Heinrich B. Ritter was born September 17, 1835.

Philip J. Ritter was born September 17, 1837.

Elisabeth Ritter-Hammel was born January 8, 1845.

Philipina's husband died on June 24, 1863. In 1864 her son, Heinrich, visited his former home and mother and sister. This visit brought a thought to Philipina's mind, that it being her husband was dead it would be more pleasant for her to be where most of her children resided. She concluded to go with her son to America, and her daughter and her betrothed agreed to go along. They held a public sale of their real and personal estate, and in a short time everything was settled. On January 11, 1865, the steamer left the shores of Europe and brought Philipina and the balance of her family to New York.

After a visit that lasted one week to her son Heinrich and his wife, her sister-in-law Mrs. Johannes Ritter, and the families of her nephews, Philip J. Ritter and Christian Ritter in Philadelphia, she

went to her final home near Hamilton, Ohio. She was happy to have all her children around her once more. Elizabeth and Adam Hammel were soon after married and Philipina Ritter made her home with them.

Philipina Oswald Ritter enjoyed better health after she left Kirchheim. The ocean voyage cured her of the asthma, from which she had been a sufferer a long time. Philipina was a tall, well-built woman of dark complexion. She had dark hair and eyes, and had a well-formed oval face with a mild cheerful and kind expression.



JACOB RITTER.



MAGDALINA RITTER, wife of Jacob Ritter.



## BIOGRAPHY OF JACOB RITTER

**Son of Christian and Philipina Ritter, Born at Kirchheim an der Eck**

Jacob received his education at the school at Kirchheim an der Eck. He was possessed of a good memory, and was a good scholar, mastering all the branches well and quickly.

At the age of fourteen he left school and engaged in his father's business of grain, wine and fruit farming, and came to be quite proficient at the business. At the age of eighteen he went to seek his fortune in the New World. He came by a sailing vessel to New York, and from New York he traveled to Butler County, Ohio, where he soon after engaged in the business he had learned, working for different farmers at such wages as were paid in those times to newcomers from the Old Country.

In 1855 he visited his parents at Kirchheim, and in 1856 returned to the United States. On his way to the West he visited his uncle, aunt and cousins in Philadelphia. He went back to Butler County, Ohio, and engaged in farming again, first for others and later for his own account by renting a farm.

He married in 1860, and continued in his business at different places until he bought his present home and farm of one hundred and twenty-five acres, beautifully located three miles north of Seven Mile Station, Butler County, Ohio. He and his family have lived on the present place about twenty-five years, and are in very comfortable circumstances. They have a very nice house with very nice surroundings.

Jacob Ritter is of dark complexion, has large dark eyes and dark or black hair, and has a full oval face with pleasant and intelligent countenance. He is a kind-hearted husband and father and has a kind heart to all.

In the prime of life he was about five feet nine inches in height, well proportioned in body, weighing about 175 pounds, and was a strong robust man.

MAGDALENA, Jacob Ritter's wife, was a good wife to her husband, and a good mother to her children with a kind heart to all. She as-



sisted her husband through life in all his undertakings and enterprises, and helped to make their enterprise a success by her strict economy and good management of her family affairs. They had fourteen children: seven died in infancy and those living are:

Edward, born March 13, 1862. He married and lives in Cincinnati where he keeps a hotel. They have no children.

Henry, born November 5, 1863. He remained unmarried and worked on his father's farm in partnership with his brother Emil. Henry died in 1904.

Amelia or Emily, born November 2, 1866. She married John Augsburger, who was born in Ohio in 1866. They live on the Pleasant View Stock Farm in Preble County, Ohio, and have one child. This child is a son named Waldor Augsburger, born February 26, 1897, and he is at present the only grandchild of Jacob and Magdalena Ritter.

Emil, born February 24, 1871. He is unmarried and managed his father's farm, together with his brother Henry in partnership.

Ida, born October 5, 1872. She married John J. Cooper, born in 1870. They were married in 1898 and have no children. They live in Chicago, where he is employed as bookkeeper in a large establishment, or at present for a railroad combine from which he receives a large salary for his superior ability.

Elizabeth Malinda, born January 2, 1877. She married Wilbur Dougherty, of Preble County, Ohio. He lives on his father's place and farms it. They had one child. It died.

Daniel, born May 28, 1878. He is, as yet, unmarried and lives at Chicago, where he is manager for a firm in the lumber business, who also have a large sash factory and picture frames. He has been in this position six years on January 1, 1904.

## BIOGRAPHY OF CHRISTIAN RITTER

Christian, second son of Christian Ritter, who lived at Kirchheim an der Eck, married Mrs. Schmitt, a widow, formerly a Miss Lowenberg. They lived in Butler County, Ohio, near the City of Hamilton. They both died very young and left one daughter. She is probably married and living at Hamilton, Ohio. Have not been able to find out more about her.



HENRY B. RITTER.



MARY VOGT RITTER, wife of Henry B. Ritter.



## BIOGRAPHY OF HENRY B. RITTER

Henry was born September 17, 1835. He received his education at the Town School at Kirehheim an der Eck. He was gifted with a good intellect, and was a very good scholar soon mastering all the branches that were taught in this school, and keeping at the head of his class.

At the age of fourteen he was confirmed in the Protestant Church, and soon after left school. He went to work on his father's lands, becoming a wine, fruit and grain farmer. When he was nineteen years of age he started to seek his fortune in the New World, and left his home and parents and came to the United States. He went to the State of Ohio where he had two brothers living, Jacob and Christian. Henry worked two years on the farm in Ohio, when at the request of his cousin, Philip J. Ritter, he came to Philadelphia to learn the trade of confectioner and ice cream maker. At this business, Henry, through a misunderstanding, served only about six months and then left.

After leaving his cousin's he was engaged as driver and conductor on a street railroad car for several years. He then left his position on the street car and became engaged in the hotel and saloon business. He was only moderately successful the first few years. He then changed his place of business and had better success and accumulated some wealth. He remained in the business until he died in April 1893.

Henry was married four times. His fourth wife died one year before him. He left two children from the second wife, five from the third, and three children from the fourth wife. The youngest one was three years old at the time of his death.

He was five feet nine inches tall, well built and of dark complexion. He had full dark eyes, and had dark hair and moustache. He was a good husband and father, kind-hearted to everybody, and would inconvenience himself to serve a friend. He was of a sanguine disposition, firm and of strong convictions, yet very pleasant in his expressions. Socially he was a good conversationalist, a pleasant entertainer, and could talk on many subjects, tell a pleasant story, thereby making many friends. He was a member of the Masonic Order.

Henry's first wife's name was Mary Meiers; they had no children. She died April 3, 1862.

His second wife's name was Wilhelmina Hesserrick, born in Homburg, Hessen-Darmstadt. They were married July 11, 1863, and had three children, but only two are living. Wilhelmina died October 4, 1871. They are:

Anna Mary, born March 28, 1868, and married Charles Zells. They have one daughter seventeen years of age.

Charles, born October 14, 1870. He did not marry and died November, 1903.

Henry's third wife's name was Mary Voigt. She died June 12, 1884. They had five children. They are:

John Gottlieb, born February 18, 1874. He is unmarried and is a salesman in the firm of P. J. Ritter Conserve Company.

Josephina, born September 8, 1875.

Dorothea Elizabeth, born June 3, 1877; unmarried.

Philip J., born September 14, 1878. He is unmarried and is receiving clerk for the P. J. Ritter Conserve Company.

Louisa, born August 4, 1882. Unmarried and is employed by the P. J. Ritter Conserve Company.

Henry married the fourth time Elizabeth Mary Biehlein. They had three children:

Frederick John, born June 20, 1886. He is studying to be an architect.

William Washington, born April 24, 1887. Attending school.

Hermine, born August 17, 1890. Still going to school.

Elizabeth Maria Biehlein died May 31, 1892.



JOHN GOTTLIEB RITTER, Son of Henry B. Ritter.



DOROTHY RITTER, Daughter of Henry B. Ritter.





## BIOGRAPHY OF JOHN GOTTLIEB RITTER

John Gottlieb Ritter, oldest son of Henry B. and Mary Vogt Ritter, was born February 18, 1874, at Manayunk, a suburban town of Philadelphia, where his father was in the hotel business. John G. Ritter received his education in the public schools of Philadelphia, learning with ease all the branches taught. After leaving school he assisted his father in his business and was a great help to him, especially when his father's health began to fail. When his father died, in April, 1893, John G. Ritter was only nineteen years old, and he assumed the management of the business, together with his sister Dorethea, who was but sixteen years old at that time and who managed the household. The youngest child of Henry B. Ritter at that time was only three years old. John Ritter kept up the home, and it was a big undertaking for a young man of nineteen years, with seven minor children to raise and care for. In 1899 he gave up the business of the father's, as it had ceased to be profitable, and for a short time carried on the restaurant business. This did not prove a success and he sold the fixtures and retired from business altogether. He then received employment at the works of the Philip J. Ritter Conserve Company, filling various positions until about one year ago he was made salesman for the company in the City of Philadelphia, and has had good success, through being ambitious and persevering.

John Ritter is six feet tall, well built, has dark hair and eyes, but short sighted and wears strong glasses to enable him to see good, has a well-formed pleasing oval face with high forehead, is of fine figure and gains friends readily by being a good conversationalist. He has an amiable disposition, is kind-hearted, and he and his sister Dora certainly deserve great praise for the manner they have managed the family since the death of their father and mother and kept the household and children together until they are nearly all grown and able to care for themselves. They removed into the city about four years ago so as to be nearer to the place of business.

## BIOGRAPHY OF PHILIP JOHN RITTER

Philip J. Ritter, fourth son of Christian and Philipina Ritter, of Kirchheim an der Eck, was born September 17, 1837. He received his education at Kirchheim, attending the school from the sixth year to the fourteenth as prescribed by law. Having a good intellect like his brothers, he became a good scholar and soon mastered the branches that were taught at the school. He also kept at the head of his class. At the age of fourteen he was confirmed in the Protestant Church.

After his term at school he was put to work like his other brothers on his father's lands, and learned the business of wine, fruit and grain farmer until he was nearly twenty-one years old.

In 1858 he left his home and parents and came to the United States. He first visited his brother Henry Ritter, at Philadelphia, and also visited his Uncle John Ritter, and aunt and cousins, and stayed at their house the eight days while he was in Philadelphia.

From Philadelphia he traveled to Hamilton, Ohio, which journey required five days. He met his brother there. He then went to work doing farm labor for three years for a Mr. John Flemer, receiving as pay for his work about a half dollar per day and his board. He saved his earnings, and at the end of three years was able to buy a team of horses, farm implements, and to rent a farm and to start in business on his own account. To make life more pleasant and endurable he had invited his sweetheart in Germany to come. She came and they were married.

After three years of earnest hard work on the leased farm, and by the help of his wife, and the high prices that prevailed for farmers' products on account of the War of the Rebellion, John Philip was enabled, together with his brother-in-law Adam Hammel who had arrived from Germany, as partner, to buy a farm of 184 acres, and the two farmed the land in partnership for six years. With great success, and best understanding, friendship and satisfaction to both parties, at the end of six years the partnership was terminated. Mr. Adam Hammel bought a farm nearer to Hamilton, Ohio, and John Philip bought Adam Hammel's share in the partnership farm, and continued to farm it until 1877, also dealing in lumber until 1877.



PHILIP JOHN RITTER, of Cincinnati, Ohio.



CATHARINA RITTER, wife of Philip J. Ritter.



In the year 1875 his health began to fail, and in 1877 he was compelled to give up the hard work on the farm. Having been offered by his cousin Philip J. Ritter a position as business manager of a branch-house for the sale of his preserved fruits, he accepted the offer, rented his farm, and removed to Cincinnati with his family. For ten years he acted as business manager of the Cincinnati branch-house of Philip J. Ritter's Conserve Company. In the year 1887 he bought the business of the Philip J. Ritter Conserve Company at Cincinnati, and he carried on the business on his own account for thirteen years. In the year 1890 John Philip Ritter retired from all business and lives as a private citizen, devoting some of his leisure time to works of charity.

Katherine Bentz Ritter, wife of John Philip Ritter, of Cincinnati, was born at Kindenheim, Rheinpfalz, Germany, November 16, 1836. She came to Ohio in 1862 and was married. The marriage was a happy one. Katherine is possessed of a good, amiable and loving disposition, a kind heart and is a faithful working assistant to her husband, and with her energy contributed largely to her husband's success in the attaining of an estate of their own. She lives now a quiet life on the laurels of her early married life. They had six children and all live in Cincinnati, Ohio, except their daughter Katherine. They are:

1. Mary, born February 7, 1863. Married to Jacob Luikart, September 6, 1898. J. Luikart was born in 1862. They have no children.

2. Philipina, born February 12, 1866. Married Joseph Dumont. They have two daughters, one fifteen and the other thirteen at present.

3. Philip, Jr., born June 5, 1869. He married Emelie Bishop, May 5, 1889. They have one son and three daughters: Karl Ritter, thirteen years old; Aetna, eleven; Louisa, nine; Jennie, seven.

4. Adam, born March 26, 1871. He married Bertha Steinmann in 1893. They have one son Clifford, born in 1895.

5. Louisa, born January 24, 1874. She married C. F. Lotz, who was born in 1870. They were married December 16, 1896, and have one son and two daughters: Louisa, six years old; Charlotte, four years old, and Frederick Wilhelm, who is two years old.

6. Katharina, born February 6, 1879. She married William Oekers, June 10, 1901. They live in St. Louis and have one daughter named Ellen, born in 1902.



## BIOGRAPHY OF ANNA MARIE RITTER

**Oldest Daughter of Philip J. and Katharine Ritter, of Cincinnati, Ohio**

Anna Maria Ritter was born on her parents' farm in Butler County, Ohio. She received a good education at the schools at Hamilton, Ohio.

She came with her parents to Cincinnati, and had been actively engaged in her father's business until the year 1900. She was married to Mr. Jacob Luikart on September 16, 1898.

When Mr. Philip J. Ritter, Mary's father, retired from business, Mary and her husband assumed the business, becoming the managers for the sale of the product of the Philip J. Ritter Conserve Company of Philadelphia, and are still carrying on the business at the present time, in which they have been very successful.

They have no children. Maria has been also very active in the work of charity in connection with the church and orphanage.

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## BIOGRAPHY OF PHILIPINA RITTER-DUMONT

**Second Daughter of Philip J. and Katherine Ritter, of Cincinnati, Ohio**

Philipina Ritter was born on the farm of her parents in Butler County, Ohio, February 2, 1866.

She received a good education at Hamilton and Cincinnati. She lived home with her parents until December 6, 1887, when she was married to Mr. Joseph Dumont. He was born in 1865. They have had three children, Kate Dumont, born in 1889; Margaret Dumont, born in 1891, and one son who died at the age of three years.

Mr. Joseph Dumont is engaged in the grocery business in Cincinnati. He and his wife are very active and enterprising in their business, and have been very successful. Philipina has been, and is yet, a great help to her husband in his business.

She had been sickly for several years, but through a surgical operation has been restored to good health.

Philipina and her husband are good hearted and are doing a great deal of charity.



JOSEPH DUMONT and Family, Cincinnati, Ohio.





ADAM RITTER, of Cincinnati, Ohio.



BERTHA RITTER, wife of Adam Ritter.



## BIOGRAPHY OF PHILIP J. RITTER, Jr.

### Oldest Son of Philip J. Ritter, of Cincinnati, Ohio

Philip J. Ritter, Jr., was born on his parents' farm, two miles from Collinsville, Butler County, Ohio, on June 5, 1869. His parents in 1877 removed to Cincinnati.

Philip received his education at the public schools in Cincinnati. After leaving school he became engaged in his father's business, occupying various positions for a number of years. At the present time he is engaged successfully as traveling salesman for the sale of preserved fruits of the Philip J. Ritter Conserve Company of Philadelphia.

He is nearly six feet tall, of a well-proportioned body, weighing about 180 pounds. He has dark brown eyes and hair, and a full face of pleasing address.

On May 5, 1889, he married Emily Bishop, of Cincinnati. They now have four children, following are their names and ages:

Karl, or Charles Ritter, thirteen years, born 1891; Aetna Ritter, eleven years, born 1893; Louisa Ritter, nine years, born 1895; Jennie Ritter, seven years, born 1897.

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## BIOGRAPHY OF ADAM RITTER

### Son of Philip J. Ritter, of Cincinnati, Ohio

Adam Ritter was born on his parents' farm near Collinsville, Butler County, Ohio, March 26, 1871. His parents in 1877 removed to Cincinnati.

He was educated at the public schools of Cincinnati, learning all the branches taught there. Adam studied the science of architect, and is still engaged in that business on his own account. He does a great amount of architectural work, such as the building of depots and bridges for railroad companies. He has been very successful in his business, and he is highly appreciated for his talent and his sincere and dignified yet pleasant manners with which he executes his business.

In 1893 he was married to Miss Bertha Steinman, of Cincinnati. They have one son, Clifford Ritter, nine years old, born in 1895.

Adam is about five feet seven inches tall, and weighs about 160 pounds. He has a full round face, dark brown eyes, hair and moustache. He is kind-hearted and of pleasing address and manners.



## BIOGRAPHY OF LOUISA RITTER-LOTZ

### Fifth Child of Philip J. Ritter, of Cincinnati, Ohio

Louisa Ritter was born January 24, 1874, at the farm of her parents near Collinsville, Ohio. One of the great incidents of her life was the celebration of her christening. Her father's cousin and his wife, Philip J. and Louisa Ritter, of Philadelphia, stood as Godfather and Godmother. The celebration took place at their farm-house near Collinsville, Ohio. There were more than fifty people present. The celebration after the christening consisted of a feast of eating and drinking, and of pleasant interchange of relation and friendship of those present, in conversation and telling of anecdotes to have good laughter.

She received her education at the public schools at Cincinnati. She possessed a good intellect and talent, was a good singer, and mastered her lessons with ease.

After leaving school she assisted her mother in her household duties until she was married on December 16, 1896, to Mr. Charles F. Lotz. Since her marriage she conducts her own household. They have three children, their names and ages are as follows: Louisa Lotz, six years old; Charlotte Lotz, four years old, and Frederick Wilhelm Lotz, two years old.

Louisa Ritter Lotz is of medium height and well proportioned. She has dark brown eyes and dark hair, and a pleasant oval face with a firm and happy expression.

Charles F. Lotz is of medium height with a well developed body. He has an oval face with an intelligent expression. His business is that of book and job printing in which he has been very successful.

## BIOGRAPHY OF KATHARINA RITTER-OCKERS

Daughter of Philip J. Ritter, of Cincinnati, Ohio

Katherine Ritter was born in Cincinnati, February 6, 1879. She was educated at the public schools at Cincinnati and, like the most of the Ritter's children, was a good scholar, learning all the branches with ease. She assisted her mother with the household duties after the conclusion of her school years.

On June 10, 1901, she married Mr. William Ockers, of St. Louis.

Katherine Ritter Ockers is above the medium in height, and has a strong and well developed body somewhat inclined to be stout. She has a very pleasing oval face with blue eyes and medium dark hair. She is a good conversationalist, and has a kind word and a kind heart for everyone.

William Ockers, Katherine's husband, is about six feet in height, and has a well developed body. He has light hair and blue eyes, a fine oval face with an expression of intelligence and kindness. He has been professor of physical culture at the High Schools in St. Louis, Mo. He is at present engaged as manager of the Schoenthaler Manufacturing Company's business at St. Louis.

They have one child, a daughter named Ellen. She is about two years old.

## BIOGRAPHY OF ELIZABETH RITTER-HAMMEL

### Daughter of Christian Ritter, of Kirchheim an der Eck

Elizabeth Ritter was born September 17, 1845. She was a strong healthy child, and was educated at the schools of her native town. She was a good scholar and soon mastered all the branches of learning that were taught at these schools.

After leaving school she became the assistant of her mother in her household duties, thoroughly learning cooking and housekeeping. She also was a great consolation to her father and mother, after all their other children had left them and gone to America.

Elizabeth was a tall, handsome brunette. She had large dark brown eyes and dark hair, and had a round oval face with rosy cheeks, with an expression of the cheerful soul that lived within. In disposition she was energetic, quick tempered like most of the Ritter family, and was always ready with a witty answer and a good hearty laugh. She was the life of the household, and the joy and consolation of her parents in their declining days.

Elizabeth Ritter left her old home at Kirchheim and with her mother and her betrothed, Mr. Adam Hammel, came to the United States in January, 1865. After a short stay at Philadelphia, she went to Butler County, Ohio. In February she was married to Mr. Adam Hammel. Their married life was a very happy one, and they were blessed with ten children, of whom three sons and seven daughters are living.

She was a good wife, assisting her husband in all his undertakings, thus helping to make them a success. She was a good mother to her children, strict to make them obey, and kind to them to make them love their parents.



ADAM HAMMEL, of Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio.



ELIZABETH RITTER HAMMEL, wife of Adam Hammel.



## BIOGRAPHY OF M. ADAM HAMMEL

Mr. Adam Hammel, of Kirchheim an der Eck, was the son of M. Hammel. He was born in 1846, and belonged to a family that were considered the most intelligent and wealthiest of Kirchheim. He was educated at the school in Kirchheim and was a good scholar, learning all the branches taught there with ease.

After leaving school he learned the business of his ancestors, that of agriculture, and he learned it successfully. After the death of his father he and his mother managed the estate until his sweetheart was going to leave for the United States, and then he gave up his charge and came to this country with her.

After arriving in Ohio, he and his brother-in-law entered into a partnership and bought a farm of 184 acres (Adam had inherited a considerable amount of money from his father's estate, which enabled him to pay for his share). This land they cultivated together for six years, when Adam sold his share of the farm to his brother-in-law, Johann Philip Ritter.

Adam and his partner had saved considerable money in the years of their working together, and after Adam sold his share he bought a farm of 220 acres of land near Hamilton, Ohio, which he has been cultivating up to the present time. He has been very successful, raising some of the best quality of grain—wheat, rye, barley and corn—produced in this country; also raising fine horses, cattle, hogs and poultry. He has added by purchase about eighty acres of land to the above.

He has built a fine large brick-house on this farm where the family live in comfort. They also have a good many other buildings on the place which has nice surroundings.

Adam is about five feet seven inches in height, and has a well-proportioned body. He is of a light complexion and has blue eyes and light hair. He has a fair, round, pleasant face. In disposition he is quite firm, self-possessed and intelligent, but does not lack for want of words to speak at the proper time.



Elizabeth, only daughter of Christian Ritter, of Kirchheim, married John Adam Hammel, February 19, 1865. They live on a farm near Hamilton, Ohio. They have ten children living:

1. Kate, born January 28, 1867. She married William Heinzelman on February 14, 1888. They have no children.

2. Adam, born February 2, 1869. He married Mary Stumpf. They have four children.

3. Michael, born January 28, 1871. He married Carrie Smith, February 6, 1898. They have three children.

4. Frances, born March 8, 1873. She married Clarence Thomas on October 9, 1901. They have one daughter, one year old.

5. Frieda, born September 1, 1875. She married Frederick Beiswanger, July 13, 1898, and have one son four years of age.

6. Anna, born December 12, 1878. She is unmarried.

7. Hilda, born December 23, 1880, is unmarried.

8. Philipina Carolina, born February 2, 1883, is unmarried.

9. William Frederick, born September 9, 1886.

10. Ida Emilia Josephina, born June 6, 1888.



JUSTINA GEGENHEIMER, mother of Louisa Gegenheimer Ritter, of Philadelphia.



ELIZABETH WILL RITTER, wife of Johannes Ritter, of Dreisen, late of Philadelphia, Pa.



## The Philadelphia Branch of the Ritter Family

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### JOHANNES OR JOHN RITTER

Third Son of George Christian and Eva Ritter

Born in Neuhof, May 2, 1792

Johannes, or John Ritter, third son of George Christian and Eva Ritter, was born May 2, 1792. He went to the school at Altleiningen, receiving there the rudiments of his education, learning with ease all the branches taught at that school. At the age of fourteen he was confirmed at the Protestant Church and his school years were ended. His education did not end then. He was gifted by nature with an exceptionally good memory, and he kept on learning and storing knowledge for future use. He was later in life well informed on many subjects. He was a good geographer, knew the location of most countries and places, and could entertain for hours by telling of his worlds of knowledge and experience; he also possessed a jovial disposition. He had a great love for his blood relations and proved it on many occasions during the sunny days of his career. He was five feet eight inches in height, light complexion, weighing about 160 pounds. In looks he resembled his son Philip J. Ritter, the writer of this sketch, who has been told many times that he resembled his father very much. The writer regrets that he has no picture of him to place alongside of his mother's picture in this book. Johannes worked on his parents' land until he was drafted to the French army in 1811.

He served as a soldier in the infantry under Napoleon Bonaparte. His regiment was quartered at Boulogne-sur-Mer on the English Channel. In February 1812, his regiment received orders to march to Russia, but Johannes being sick at the time, could not go. He was subsequently transferred to another regiment that marched thither several months later, but penetrated no further than the border of Russia, where they received the news of Napoleon's defeat at Mos-

cow, and they were ordered back to garrison the fortress of Magdeburg in Germany. Napoleon was forced to retreat from Russia, his army almost annihilated, the regiment that Johannes had joined at Bologne blotted out with the rest. Nothing daunted Napoleon and he gathered together another army of his reserves, and retreated as far as Leipzig in Germany, where the great battle was fought that lasted three days, and ended in the defeat of the French army. Napoleon retreated from Leipzig to beyond the River Rhine, where he halted. During all this time Johannes and his regiment were held in thralldom at Magdeburg by the allied army. On January 1, 1814, the allied army crossed the river Rhine, and Napoleon and the French forces were driven back to France, where Napoleon was taken prisoner and as such was sent to the Island of Elba. After Napoleon's defeat, the garrison of Magdeburg was relieved, and Johannes left the French army and came home to his people. On the march from Russia to Magdeburg, Johannes and his regiment fought several battles with the Russian Cossacks, and in one of these they were surrounded and nearly taken prisoners.

After leaving the army Johannes followed various pursuits. He went to Dreisen where he worked in a flour mill for Mr. Valentine Berg. During his stay in this place he made the acquaintance of Elizabeth Will, whom he married in 1818. He had saved some money and consequently started in business for himself. He dealt in grain, hauling it to distant cities and selling it there. This proved very lucrative. Later on he bought a house, barn and other out-buildings and some land.

This, together with what land his wife had inherited from her parents, he cultivated and became quite a business man, honored and respected by all who knew him. He was also well beloved for his sociability, jovial disposition, and liberal spirit, and was elected a member of the Town Council.

Besides dealing in grain, he brought back from the cities, where he transacted business, merchandise, coal and wood. All went well until the railroads were built, and then business became unprofitable. In order to make money he bought large quantities of grain on speculation and lost, until, finally, becoming involved in debt, he failed. He then returned with his family to America. Being unable to speak the English language with sufficient fluency, he concluded to go among the

Pennsylvania Germans, and he did some trading among them until his son, Philip John, engaged in the confectionery business, whereupon he retired and lived with the latter.

Johannes Ritter, as we have seen, was married to Elizabeth Will, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Katherine Will, of Dreisen. "We all loved our mother as our mother loved us." Elizabeth Will was of light complexion, having light hair, and blue eyes, and a round face. She was of medium height. She was a good mother and an exemplary housewife, being very energetic and economical.

Elizabeth Ritter was a great help to her husband during his early business career, and after arriving in this country she attended to her duties, whenever necessary, just as she had done in Germany. She also rendered valuable aid to her son, Philip J. Ritter, when he started in the confectionery business. Her father was a distiller and farmer, and possessed sufficient land to make his family very comfortable.

Johannes and Elizabeth Ritter had thirteen children all born in Dreisen. Only five lived to manhood, the others died in infancy. Those are:

George John, born in 1820.

Johannes, born April 26, 1826.

Philip John, born October 19, 1832.

Katharina, born in 1834.

Christian, born April 4, 1844.

The oldest, George John, stayed at Dreisen and died there in 1863; the rest of his family all came to America and settled in Philadelphia in the year 1886.



## GEORGE JOHN RITTER

### Oldest Son of Johannes and Elizabeth Ritter

George John, the oldest son of Johannes and Elizabeth Ritter, married Katharine Hanbeil, of Beidesheim, Rheinpfalz, Germany. They lived in Dreisen and had three children. Their business was agriculture. The children are as follows:

Susanna, born July 27, 1846, at Dreisen, married George Trippels.

Philip George, born in 1848, and is unmarried. He was for many years engaged in the fruit preserving business with his uncle, Philip J. Ritter.

Elizabeth, born in 1851, unmarried. Was employed at the fruit preserving business of her uncle, Philip J. Ritter. Philip and Elizabeth live in Philadelphia, Pa.

Susanna was married to George Trippel, January 10, 1869, at Philadelphia. He was born June 24, 1846 at Sickenholen, Grand Duchy of Hessen-Darmstadt. Susanna and her husband live on a farm near Cabool, Missouri. They have three children.

Cecelie, born April 2, 1870, at Philadelphia.

Elizabeth, born January 22, 1872, died January 30, 1873.

Anna, born April 22, 1874.

Louisa, born February 7, 1884, at Harbine, Jefferson County, Neb. Unmarried.

Cecelia, oldest daughter of George and Susanna Trippel, was married October 20, 1889, to Mr. Frederick William Kipp. He was born September 22, 1865, at Boeringhausen, Westphalia. They have four children and live at Dewitt, Nebraska. The first three children were born at Cabool, Texas County, Missouri:

George, born May 26, 1891.

Frederick Wilhelm, born October 23, 1893.

Anna Susanna, born August 1, 1895.

Adolph Frederick, born August 16, 1898.

Anna Trippel, second daughter of George and Susanna Trippel, married Wilhelm Darnauer, February 22, 1898. He was born July 6, 1873, at Preussisch Minden, Westphalia, Germany. They have three children, all born at Cabool, Mo. One died in infancy. The living are:

Herman, born December 13, 1898.

Frederick George, born February 8, 1901.



JOHN RITTER, of Philadelphia.



## JOHANNES OR JOHN RITTER

### Second Son of Johannes and Elizabeth Ritter

Johannes, second son of Johannes and Elizabeth Ritter, was born at Dreisen, April 26, 1826. He received his education at the school at Dreisen, and was a good scholar. He married twice, the first time Louisa Rohlfink, of Hanover, Germany. They lived in Philadelphia, and had six children.

Johannes, or John, Ritter followed various pursuits, and in the latter part of his life was manager for ten years of the branch-house of his brother, Philip J. Ritter, in Baltimore, for the sale of preserved fruits, and was successful.

He married a second time Mary Orth. They had no children. They came to Philadelphia and started a retail grocery business, and his widow still carries on the same business. He died July 1, 1896. His first wife died in 1883.

1. Mary, born February 27, 1849, and married Charles Freund. They had no children. Charles Freund died in June, 1904.

2. John, born September 15, 1852. He married twice. The first time Bessie Fuller, of Decatur, Ill. They have one son who is now about twenty-one years old. The second time he married Ella Blaylock. They have two children.

3. Louisa, born June 20, 1857. She was married three times; first, to Albert Marshall; second, to E. Baugher and, thirdly, to A. Goodman. She is living in Philadelphia, and has no children.

4. Emma, born June 18, 1859. She did not marry and died May 10, 1885.

5. George B., born July 1, 1861, and married Fanny Warner, of New York. She was born March 8, 1866. They live in New York City and have no children. George B. Ritter is the manager of the branch-house of the P. J. Ritter Conserve Company in New York City, and has been since 1882.

6. Christian is married and lives in Jersey City. He was born June 1, 1867, and married Agnes Dwyer, born December 7, 1876. They have one son, Christian Henry Ritter, born November 16, 1895. Christian has been outside salesman for his brother George and his uncle P. J. Ritter.

## BIOGRAPHY OF GEORGE B. RITTER

George B. Ritter was born at Doylestown, Pa. He was educated in the public schools. When he was fourteen years old he came to work in his uncle's, P. J. Ritter preserve works, and worked there for two years.

At the advice of his uncle he learned the confectionery, cake baking and ice cream business. After he had thoroughly mastered his trade he went to Commercial College and learned bookkeeping. After he had learned that business he became bookkeeper in the branch-house of his uncle, P. J. Ritter, in New York, under Andrew Schaefer, who was manager. After two years Mr. A. Schaefer gave up the management and George B. Ritter became manager in 1882 or 1883. He devoted all his knowledge and energy to the business, and made it a success. He has been saving and accumulated considerable wealth. He is still manager of the business.

George B. Ritter is tall and stout. He has a good conception and clear understanding of things. He is of pleasing, jovial disposition and therefore well liked by those who know him and have dealings with him.



GEORGE B. RITTER, of New York.



FANNY WARNER RITTER, wife of George B. Ritter.







PHILIP J. RITTER, Philadelphia, 1885.



LOUISA RITTER, wife of PHILIP J. RITTER, 1885.



## AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF PHILIP J. RITTER

Third Son of John and Elizabeth Ritter,  
Born October 19, 1832, at Dreisen.

To the reader of this book I will say that the writer's history of himself and his doings during his lifetime are not given here as a matter of vanity or egotism or pride. No! The writer's pride is in his straightforward, honest dealings with his fellow men during all his life time.

His active business career covers fifty-eight years of time counting from his fourteenth year. Seven and one-half years he was learning and working at various pursuits. At twenty-one and a half years of age he started in business on his own account. If the reader will think and reflect a few minutes, he will see how many different things and changes a person can meet with in such a long and active business career, and in a business that has been extended to almost all parts of the world. Wherever known the name of Philip J. Ritter stands favorably in the minds of men as that of a man of fair dealing and superior quality of his goods.

My reason for writing my life's doings and business career is that I would like to impress on the mind of the reader to show him what a person can accomplish if she or he has a clear conception of what they want to attain in life. A will power, an honest purpose, and a perservance will make a success of the enterprise they have undertaken. Man can attain great objects in a short time if he has the energy and a free will, such as the writer possessed as a gift of nature over which he had no control.

Philip Johann Ritter, third son of Johannes or John and Elizabeth Ritter, of Dreisen, was born October 19, 1832. He was a strong and healthy boy, and at the age of four years he already possessed a strong and fearless will power. This he retained all through life. At the age of six years he was sent to the school at Dreisen, learning only the first elements the two first years. At eight he evinced a great

interest in all that was being done and taught in this school, and became actually hungry for knowledge. At the age of ten years he had learned all that could be learned at this school. This knowledge was stored away in his memory for future use. From the tenth to the fourteenth year, he assisted teaching school, especially the younger or new class, but still retained his seat as the first scholar of the highest class in the school. He was envied by many of the scholars older than himself on account of his age, that they should be beneath him in learning. He did not stop learning when he left school, on the contrary he kept on gathering knowledge and it has become second nature with him all through life, for he is studying and learning yet. He learned the English language without a teacher. For several years he wrote his own correspondence and did his own bookkeeping, also going through the practical part of education by doing a large manufacturing and commercial business through the length and breadth of this country. He exported some of the goods to European countries successfully, and without any setback by heavy financial losses. To accomplish this required an energetic, continuous, restless, conservative spirit that was active eighteen hours out of twenty hours.

Philip J. Ritter at the age of twenty years read some of the English writer, Pope's works. In it it stated that the "proper study of mankind is man." Taking Pope's advice he studied anatomy and physiology, and the workings of the organs in the human body. Pathology and therapeutics and medicine has been a favorite study with him, and proved a great help to him and his family and relations. The advantage thus possessed helped the family many times, by the diagnosis of the case and quick use and application of suitable remedies, in relieving them from severe pains and long spells of sickness and some from an early grave.

He is well acquainted with the ruling elements of chemistry and their uses, far better than the ordinary layman. He possesses a number of the leading books on this subject and uses them for reference.

As an observer, his faculties for remembering most all plants and animals and knowing them on sight has been a pleasure to him. To go into the field and forest and call nearly all trees, shrubs, plants and even weeds by name and know their use and their nature; and also the family of plants they belong to, according to the arrangement of

plants by Linne, the great Swedish Botanist and Natural Philosopher; on seeing these trees and plants it is like meeting old friends and telling them: "I am glad to see you look so well." These pleasures few mortals enjoy. He is not a stingy person, and he cheerfully will give some of the enjoyment to others free of charge by telling what he met with and enjoyed. He is also familiar with rock formations of the earth. He knows the names of most rocks, and during his travels has had the chance of comparing conglomerate rocks found on the Rocky Mountains at an elevation of 11,000 feet, and also those on a very high altitude in the Alps in Switzerland. Conglomerate rock is composed of rounded stone of all sizes and of all sizes of gravel and sand baked or hardened together in a solid mass. The presence of this conglomerate rock at such high altitude is an evidence that this earth some time during its existence has been covered with ice and water to round the stones that compose this rock into their present shape. That is the belief of most geologists.

Philip J. Ritter is about five feet eight inches in height, and has a well-proportioned body, weighing at present about 180 pounds. During the years from 21 to 35 he weighed about 150 pounds. He has a full oval face and is of light complexion. He has light blue, grayish eyes, light hair and brown moustache and whiskers now turned gray. The expression of his face is of the sincere, straightforward kind, carrying a strong and pronounced expression of conviction with it. Socially his face is of a cheerful and jovial expression with a kind word and a smile for his fellow-men.

Socially the subject of this sketch was one of the fortunate ones of the human family, being an optimist, or one who believes that all the happenings in this world are for the best, or he sees the sunny side of most things while some other fellow sees only the dark side.

After that time had passed in his life when he did not have to trouble any more about "the rainy day," he and his family enjoyed some pleasure among their many friends and gatherings at their own home. Among the many social events was the frequent gathering of a club called the Jolly Fifteen. This club was composed of men over 40 years old, and who had known each other some years. Philip J. Ritter was president. Their gatherings were enlivened by discussions of the happenings of the day and with humorous, ironical, sarcastic speeches.



and by refreshments, and the enjoyment was of the real hearty kind. Card-playing and the talking of politics and business were not touched or spoke of. At many of the meetings the wives joined in the sociability. The subject of this sketch contributed a great share of the pleasure enjoyed. This society lasted about fifteen years, from 1880 to 1895.

Philip J. Ritter socially was, or is, well known in the city he lives in as a broad-minded and liberal citizen who has helped to make the city famous for its various manufactories, by extending his business to all parts of the Union and thereby the name of Philadelphia. He is also well known for the interest he has taken in the welfare of the city and its best interests.



PHILIP J. RITTER and wife, LOUISA RITTER, Philadelphia, 1904.



## BIOGRAPHY OF LOUISA GEGENHEIMER-RITTER

Louisa Gegenheimer Ritter, wife of Philip J. Ritter, was born at Philadelphia, April 14, 1839. She is the daughter of Mr. Johann, or John, and Justina Gegenheimer, nee Hochwald, of Philadelphia.

The parents of the subject of this sketch came to the United States in 1830. Mr. John Michael Gegenheimer was born at Ittersbach, Grand Duchy of Baden, Germany, in 1804. Justina Gegenheimer, nee Hochwald, was born at Knittlingen, a town of about 2000 inhabitants in the Kingdom of Wuerttemberg. Her father, J. Hochwald (the translation of his name is Highforest), was a well-to-do farmer. Philip J. Ritter and his wife, in 1886, visited the house where her mother was born. The house was in very good preserved condition, and it bore the date of its erection and the name Hochwald.

John Gegenheimer and his wife crossed the Atlantic Ocean in a Dutch sailing vessel in 120 days, and many times had poor hopes of ever seeing land again. Their daughter, Louisa, and her family crossed the ocean on a Cunard Line steamer in 1886 and 1889 in six and one-half and seven days. This was 56 or 59 years later. Yet this long trip of Father and Mother Gegenheimer did not injure them. They had a dozen children and lived to be over 80 years old.

Louisa Gegenheimer Ritter received her education at the public schools of Philadelphia. She was a very obedient and good scholar, soon mastering the different branches of learning. At the age of fourteen she went to live with a friend of the family, and stayed there two years. The lady was very good to show Louisa all the rudiments of housekeeping suitable to a girl of her age. At sixteen she became a saleslady in a confectionery store. At the age of nineteen she was married to Philip J. Ritter (December 22, 1858). They have celebrated their forty-sixth anniversary of their marriage. The marriage is a happy one, and they have four children:

George W. Ritter, born March 9, 1860.

Philip J. Ritter, born November 14, 1861.

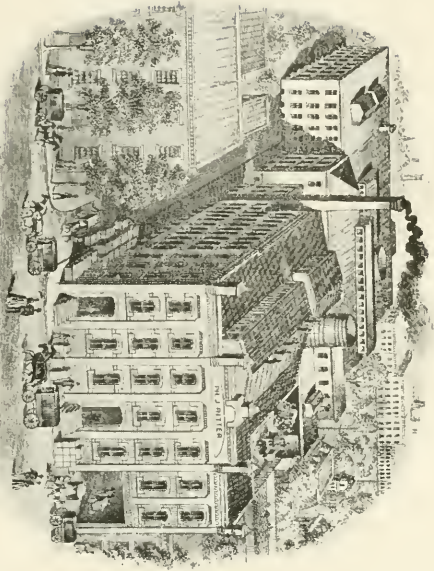
Charles F. Ritter, born April 13, 1866.

William H. Ritter, born February 17, 1869.

At the time of her marriage she was well proportioned, and a little above the average girl's height, with an oval rounded face and red cheeks. She had dark brown hair and eyes and might have been called of the brunette type. She has a mild and pleasing expression in her eyes and face, and a disposition of character to match the expression, which gives evidence of the good and true soul that dwells within her body.

Louisa is a good wife to her husband and a kind mother to her children. She took almost entire charge of the retail business of her husband, and with untiring energy, pleasant and affable manners, and close attention helped to make the business a success. Being possessed of good judgment in the management of the business made it possible for her husband to give closer attention to the manufacturing of the goods she was selling, and also his wholesale branch of the business.

Her health during life was fairly good during the first twenty-five years of her married life. She was subject to dyspeptic conditions, and often had to suffer severely until her husband found the proper remedies that gave her instant relief. During middle life she enjoyed good health and became quite stout, weighing at one time 174 pounds. At the present time at the age of 65 years she still weighs over 150 pounds. Her health has not been good the last two years, caused mostly by a torpid liver and kidney.



PHILIP J. RITTER, PRES  
CHRISTIAN RITTER, VICE PRES.



F. J. DILLMAN, TREAS  
F. W. HOFMANN, SECTY.

Philip J. Ritter Conserve Co. Factories built by  
P. J. Ritter.



Factories and Dwellings of Philip J. Ritter, Philadelphia.





## BUSINESS CAREER OF PHILIP J. RITTER

Philip J. Ritter's business career counts from April, 1854, when he established himself in the wholesale and retail ice cream business. He did very well in this business for a year, and in the Spring of 1855 rented the property at 610 Race street and established, in addition to his ice cream business, a confectionery and bakery. He was working hard, but was only partially successful. The depressed business condition of the country and a cool summer were factors uncontrollable. The depression lasted several years and during these years Philip J. Ritter kept working hard and living economically with a knowledge that perseverance would bring success. He also added catering to the business, furnishing suppers for large numbers of people at balls and banquets and at various celebrations. In 1857 and 1858 he preserved and crystallized several tons of fruit, which he sold in the confectionery trade.

In September 1861 he went to Washington, D. C., and rented a bakery and established a wholesale cake and pie bakery, and sold most of his product to the storekeepers attached to the regiments of soldiers stationed within ten miles of Washington to protect the city against the Southern Rebels. This business was profitable only for about two years. At this juncture of the business Philip went back to Philadelphia, and resumed the management of his business that had been carried on in his absence by his wife and parents, assisted by his brother Christian. Conditions had changed during his absence. There was probably twenty thousand invalid soldiers encamped on the outskirts of the city. There were two camps or hospitals with over five thousand invalid soldiers in each of them. Each camp had a store attached where the soldiers could buy such articles as they needed. These stores he supplied with cakes, pie, and ice cream that the United States Government did not supply them with. By an act of the United States Government by Congress, a large quantity of paper money was printed, and the soldiers received their pay for their service promptly. Having suffered many privations while in the campaign, many soldiers would indulge in this luxury obtainable there. The business lasted about

three years, and during this period the subject of this sketch by hard work saved enough from his profits to lay the foundation of his future business career satisfactorily.

Unsatisfactory business conditions again prevailed in 1867. He sold his business. He made a tour to the Western States to look around for business opportunities. Not finding anything suitable to his ideas and tastes, he came back, in December, 1867, to Philadelphia.

During the winter of 1868 there was not much chance to do anything. In the spring he started out looking over all parts of Philadelphia for a suitable business location. Finally he found the property that proved his success and pleasure. The property is located at 2211-13-15-17 Frankford avenue. Here is where he established himself in his former business, confectionery, cake baking and ice cream making. He also added the manufacture of candies, and fitted up the large house with a beautiful store adjoining and parallel with an elegant ice cream parlor, there being none to compare with it in that part of the city. Manufacturing only the best of everything and selling at a reasonable price made the enterprise a success from the beginning. He did a large retail business at the store and a wholesale business to other stores in that part of Philadelphia.

In the fall of 1869 he started the preserved fruit business. At first he made apple butter only, and later other fruit preserves. The first two years he sold his goods in New York City only.

In 1870 Philip J. Ritter built, at 2211 and 2213 Frankford avenue, two nice large stores and a hall room over the stores and rented the property. The building cost \$4000, and rented for \$900 a year.

In 1871 the preserved fruit business was extended to other cities by sending out men to sell the goods.

In 1875 the preserved fruit business had increased to such dimensions that the carrying of the two businesses became burdensome. In November 1875, the confectionery and ice cream business was discontinued, and the preserved fruit business extended by building a factory in the rear of the Frankford avenue property. Philip J. Ritter's idea was to have a business that could be extended all over the United States. This he accomplished in a few years. In 1880, Ritter's preserves could be found on sale in most all cities from New York to San Francisco, and from New Orleans to Minnesota, and this expansion of

business was done at a time when the most disastrous business depression existed all over the United States from 1873 to 1880. The money in circulation was a product of the late war and consisted of paper notes, called fractional currency, and copper cents. The notes were the five, ten, fifteen, twenty-five and fifty cents, and the United States greenback notes from one dollar upwards, and the national banknotes. The first day of January 1880, the United States resumed specie payment. This caused all business to revive.

In 1880 the preserved fruit business became so active that the capacity of the establishment became too small and a larger factory had to be built. This was done in 1881 and again enlarged in 1882 and 1883. The demand for his preserves was so great that his working people had to work night and day to supply the demand. The cause of this was that all other kinds of business had revived throughout the United States and the preserves and apple butter was sold at a price low enough that all classes of people could buy them.

In 1882 Philip J. Ritter converted his business into a stock company, calling it the Philip J. Ritter Conserve Company. The company has a capital of \$100,000 and a surplus of \$25,000. Associated with him in this company were his brother Christian Ritter, his son George W. Ritter, Louisa Ritter, his wife, Mr. W. F. Hofman, Mr. Francis J. Dillman and Mr. John Gegenheimer, his brother-in-law. Philip J. Ritter was made president, Christian Ritter, vice-president, Francis J. Dillman, treasurer, and F. W. Hofman, secretary. The idea occurred to Philip J. Ritter that the business was becoming so large that in case of his death his wife and minor children could not continue the business and would cause them great trouble and loss. The thought and consummation of taking into the company men who had been very faithful workers in their separate positions they held, proved a very happy and congenial aggregation of minds, all working in harmony for the best interests of the business and still doing the same to the present time.

In 1883 Philip J. Ritter made his first trip to California, and bought several carloads of apricots and cherries in airtight cans. This also proved a good venture. The years until 1890 were all prosperous.

In 1890 he started in May to California to engage larger quantities of fruits. In 1890 the fruit crop in the states east of the Rocky Moun-

tains proved a total failure, and nearly all the supplies for his business had to be shipped east from California.

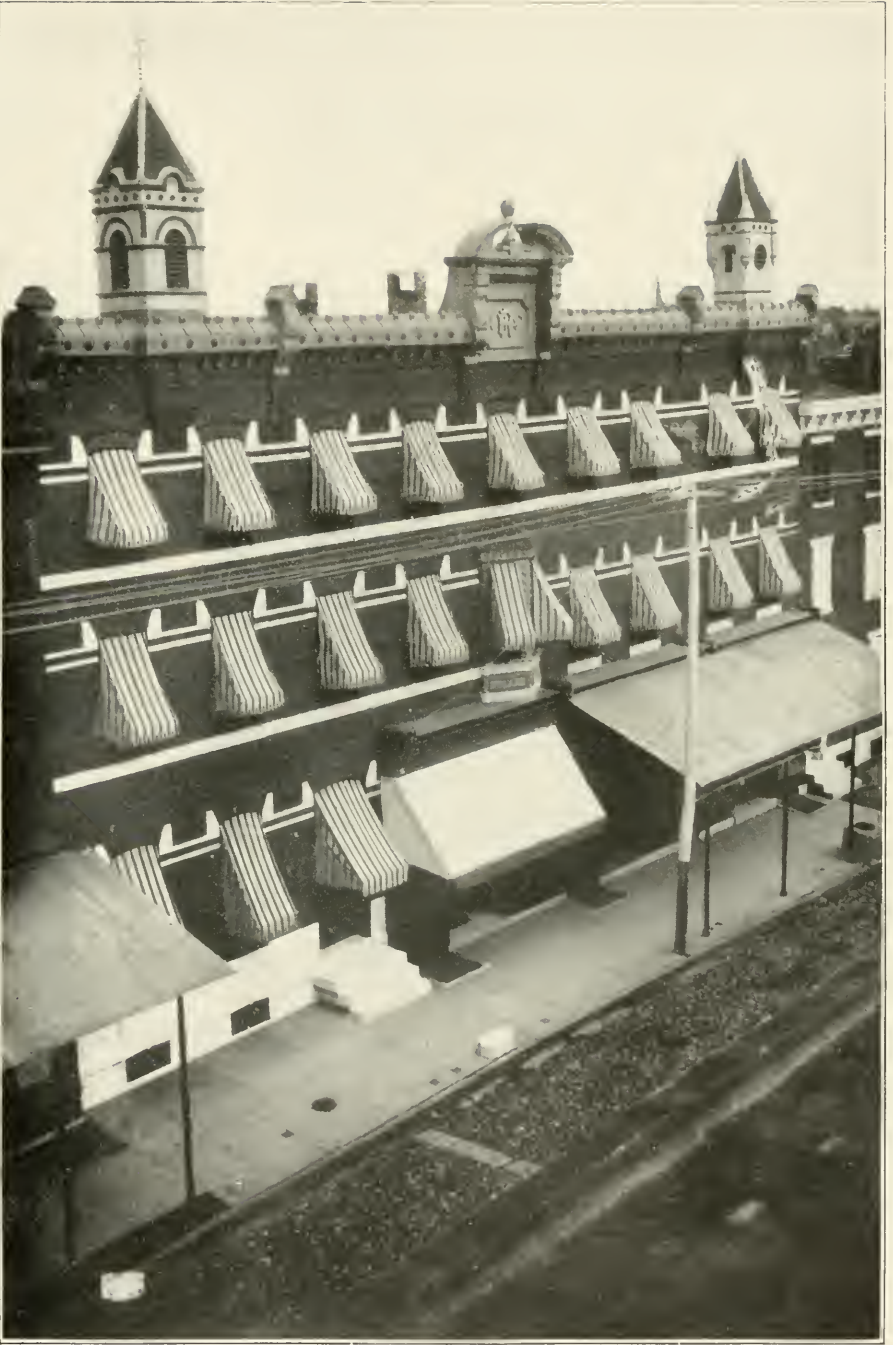
The year 1890 proved to be the banner year of the business. The demand for goods was so great that it was almost impossible to fill the orders that were received. 1891-92-93 were also good business years.

In 1891, Philip J. Ritter, in connection with Mr. Robert Hickmott, of Haywards, California, started a cannery at Oakland, California, for the purpose of canning and preserving fine fruits. In this they succeeded admirably. Their fruits soon had a reputation for superior quality and fineness of flavor wherever they had been sold. In 1891 he built a large warehouse on a large lot he had bought adjoining the cannery. In 1892 Mr. Hickmott put up fruit as usual in other years, also three thousand cases of asparagus. In August of this year Mr. Hickmott came near being killed by being struck by a street car in San Francisco. He lay unconscious for ten days. Philip J. Ritter and his son William Henry were called by telegraph to come and look after their interest at the cannery at California. They prepared themselves and went and took charge of the business, and stayed until nearly all the goods were shipped and the business for the year closed. On the fifteenth of December Philip and his son started for home. In 1893 he retired from his partnership with Mr. Hickmott, but still continued to get his supply of California fruit from Hickmott.

In the year 1893 was held the Columbian Exposition at Chicago. Philip J. Ritter went to Chicago in April to put up the exhibit of the Philip J. Ritter Conserve Company, and remained until June when he came east to look after his various interests. He went back to Chicago in July taking his family with him, and stayed until November when the exhibition closed.

A general business depression throughout the United States took place in 1893 and lasted for several years. Business of all kinds suffered from it, and the preserved fruit business with the rest became unprofitable. The depression in business continued for several years until 1898 when a turn for the better took place. In 1894 Philip J. Ritter was induced to enter a new stock company with a capital of \$100,000 to manufacture ice. P. J. Ritter was elected president of the company and Mr. F. W. Hofman, secretary of the P. J. Ritter Conserve Company, was elected treasurer. This enterprise proved a success, the com-





Residence and Stores of Philip J. Ritter, Frankford Ave. and Dauphin St., Philadelphia.





pany having earned and paid good dividends on its stock since the second year of its existence.

The years from 1894 to 1904 have been uneventful in the preserved fruit business so far as P. J. Ritter is concerned. The inner business is still as it has been for many years in the hands of Mr. Christian Ritter. He and his son Charles superintend the manufacturing. Mr. F. W. Hofman manages the selling department and correspondence and general management of the business. Mr. F. J. Dillman managed the buying of fruit and attended to the finance of the business until he died in 1902. Since then Mr. W. H. Ritter, who had the manufacturing of tin canes in his charge, has, in addition, assumed Mr. Dillman's position with a staff of men in the business. Philip J. Ritter has been able to relax his part of the business and live in a semi-retired condition. This was necessary on account of his debilitated condition from ill health. The last two years his health has been better.

As an employer he was well liked by his employees. The preserved fruit business having grown into a large and prosperous one, and employing several hundred persons, it is natural to get all kinds of help. By care he has selected very many employees who work for the best interests of the business; and, having an appreciative employer, they hold their positions as long as they wish. Good sympathetic feeling exists in the works between employee and employer, a number of employees wearing a gold medal of honor presented to them for twenty-five years of faithful service in the business, and there are quite a number more who will also soon receive the gold medal, and many more who have worked from five to twenty years. A strike or general dissatisfaction never took place. Picnics and other entertainments, where employer and employee are happy together, are frequently given.

## CHILDREN OF PHILIP J. RITTER, PHILADELPHIA

### BIOGRAPHY OF GEORGE W. RITTER

#### First Child and Son of Philip J. and Louisa Ritter, of Philadelphia

George Washington Ritter was born March 9, 1860, at Philadelphia. He was a delicate child the first ten years of his life, being afflicted with all the diseases that children are subjected to. Through the great care of his parents and good doctors he survived them all.

He received a good education at the private "Real" school, and after leaving school was engaged in his father's business, filling various positions. Finally he became the cashier of the business.

George was rather small in height until he was seventeen years of age, when he started to grow more rapidly. At the age of twenty-one he was about five feet nine inches in height.

After his twenty-first year he showed signs of debility, which the doctor pronounced exhaustion. He had exhausted his strength to make the growth of his body. He lingered in this condition for about six months, when he had an attack of inflammation of the bowels. From this disease he died in July, 1882.

George was a good, quiet, obedient boy, kind-hearted and pleasant with everyone, and through his affable and obliging manners had gained many friends, who very much mourned his early demise. The parents and grandparents' grief and anguish were great and indescribable.



Philip J. Ritter's Family Group and Garden.



## BIOGRAPHY OF PHILIP J. RITTER

### **Second Child and Son of Philip J. and Louisa Ritter, of Philadelphia**

Philip John Ritter was born at Philadelphia, November 14, 1861. He was a very healthy and bright boy, passing successfully through the infectious diseases that childhood is subject to.

He went to school and was an excellent scholar. He possessed a phenomenally good memory, and was beloved by all that knew him.

On February 5, 1869, he was taken suddenly ill growing worse every hour. Notwithstanding every effort made by the doctor and the parents, he died in thirty-six hours after he first began to show symptoms of being sick. Scarlet fever of a very malignant kind was epidemic in Philadelphia at that time, and that is what the doctor pronounced it. This was the severest shock his parents had ever experienced in life, and it took them a long time to reconcile themselves to this loss. The feeling of grief became intensified when, three months later, Charles Gegenheimer, Mrs. Ritter's brother, was taken sick with typhoid fever, and after an illness of less than one week died. He had been living with his sister and brother-in-law, Philip Ritter, since he was twelve years old, and was like their own child. This death coming so suddenly after the death of their beloved child was a great shock to the parents and grandparents, and they bore it in deep silence. Life had no more joys for them.





PHILIP J. RITTER, second child of Philip J. and Louisa Ritter  
of Philadelphia.



GEORGE W. RITTER, oldest son of Philip and Louisa Ritter, of Philadelphia.





CHARLES F. RITTER, and his wife, LOUISA J. RITTER, late of Philadelphia, Pa.



## BIOGRAPHY OF CHARLES F. RITTER

### Third Child and Son of Philip J. and Louisa Ritter, Philadelphia

Charles Franklin Ritter was born in Philadelphia on April 13, 1866. He was a healthy child, and passed successfully through the infectious diseases subject to childhood.

He studied at private school and at college, and was a good attentive scholar with a fair memory. After leaving his studies he learned the father's business, practically working at the factory making preserves and jelly. Later he was engaged in various positions in the office.

In June, 1889, he married Louisa J. Jooss, of New York, and made a wedding trip to Europe with his bride.

Charles F. and Louisa Ritter had one child named Philip John Ritter, born in 1891. He was not a strong child, but of a very bright mind. He lived to be eight years old and died in April, 1899.

Charles F. Ritter, like his brother William, saw a great deal of this world, having traveled with his parents over all those routes and tours described in the biography of William H. Ritter.

He was nearly six feet tall and well proportioned, weighing 180 pounds. He had dark brown eyes and dark brown hair and moustache. His pleasing countenance, obliging manners and kind heartedness gave him many friends. He was an active member of the "Junger Männerchor" Singing Society.

He was taken suddenly ill in June, 1894, suffering intense pain in the abdomen. Upon examination it proved to be appendicitis. A surgical operation was performed and the appendix removed, but he lived only five days after this was done. His sudden death at the home of his parents was a great shock to them and his death it grieved them very much that he should have to die so young and after such short illness. Charles was only 28 years old and left a wife and little son only 3 years old.

Louisa Jooss Ritter, wife of Charles F. Ritter, was born in New York City. She was a second cousin to her husband. She was nearly as tall as her husband, is of light complexion, has a cheerful bright oval face with large blue eyes, and considered a handsome woman. She was well accomplished in artwork and music.



## BIOGRAPHY OF WILLIAM HENRY RITTER

William Henry Ritter came to this world ten days after the death of his brother, Philip John Ritter. His parents had not fully recovered from the severe shock of the sudden death of their beloved son Philip, and the birth of William was a consolation that helped to ameliorate their loss, which they had borne in silent grief, also was his birth a silent joy to which no expression could be given.

William was a healthy robust child and passed successfully through all the infectious diseases of childhood. He was a good scholar, and mastered all the different branches with ease. He graduated from Eastburn College, then entered into the business of his father, first learning the details and afterwards managing some of the departments.

William Henry is now thirty-five years old, and is five feet, seven inches in height. He is broad shouldered, has a deep chest, well proportioned body, weighing about 185 pounds, high forehead, oval full featured face, and dark brown eyes, hair and moustache. He has a cheerful countenance with an expression of courage and sincerity, yet mild and amicable and of a joyful disposition that knows a kind word for everyone. He has a clear complexion and above all other qualities is possessed of good common sense and judgment. He is a devoted husband and father and a good lovable son to his aged parents. He is a favorite companion among his associates, always being ready to entertain them with some comic story.

William H. Ritter was married June 20, 1898, to Miss Selma Holly, daughter of Charles Frederick and Theresa Holly, of Philadelphia. They went on their wedding tour, stopping at Niagara Falls, en route to Chicago, Iowa, Omaha and California, stopping at Chicago and Iowa about one week in each place, when they were called home by telegraph on account of the serious illness of Mr. Philip J. Ritter, his father.

William H. Ritter and wife went to housekeeping and have lived happily together since. William is a very kind-hearted husband and father; he is also a kind son to his parents in their declining years, as he has always been, and being of a bright, cheerful disposition, he makes all those around him happy.



WILLIAM HENRY RITTER, and his wife, SELMA HOLLY RITTER, of Philadelphia.





WILLIAM RITTER, five years old, son of William H. Ritter, of Philadelphia.



## BIOGRAPHY OF SELMA HOLLY RITTER

Selma Holly Ritter, wife of William Henry Ritter, was born at Philadelphia, June 19, 1873. She was the oldest living daughter of Mr. Charles Frederick and Theresa Holly. Her father, Mr. Holly, was born at Faehbach, near Ems, Province Nassau, and her mother, Theresa Holly nee Lambrich, was born at Oberlahnstein on the Rhine. Mr. Charles F. Holly and his wife came to Philadelphia in the year 1866. Selma Holly Ritter received her education in the public and convent schools. She was a good scholar, mastering all branches with ease, including the German language. She was confirmed in the German Catholic Church. After leaving school she learned to do fine needle work and millinery. She also learned all branches of household duties with her mother and became a good and efficient assistant to her mother, especially during the years of sickness of her father, and a good kind nurse to her father. Selma Holly Ritter before marriage was of slender build, about five feet high, of light complexion, light hair and blue eyes, with an oval rounded face, with pleasing cheerful expression of countenance. After a few years of marriage she became quite stout. William Henry Ritter and Selma Holly Ritter's married life was a happy one. They have two children born to them.

1. William H. Ritter was born August 31, 1899.
2. Theresa Louisa was born October 26, 1904.

### William Henry Ritter's Business Career

William Henry Ritter was born at the parents' residence, 2215 and 2217 Frankford Avenue, Philadelphia, on the seventeenth day of February, 1869.

At the age of seven years he went to school. He was a good scholar, learning the various branches with ease. At the age of fifteen he finished his education at the Eastburn College. After leaving college he entered into the business of his father, The Philip J. Ritter Conserve Company. He learned the various details of the fruit preserving business, and afterwards took part in the general supervision of the business. The extent of the business requires the employ of several hundred people, and from fifteen to twenty horses and wagons



for hauling goods; also steam machinery to run the machinery of the factory. William Henry's faculties for machinery was very good, having a natural talent for it.

About ten years ago the Philip J. Ritter Conserve Company started to make their own tin cans to put preserved fruits in. William H. Ritter has taken the entire charge of this branch of the business, also the manufacturing of tin boxes and cans for other business firms.

In 1902 F. J. Dillman, treasurer of the Philip J. Ritter Conserve Company, died. William H. Ritter was elected its treasurer. He is also a director of the Excelsior Bank and of the German Union Building and Loan Association, chartered in 1870. He attends strictly to all the duties that he has assumed.

He has traveled a great deal, both in this and in foreign countries. In 1876 he made several visits to the great Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia. In 1877 with his parents he visited for three months relatives in Ohio, and again in 1881 he went to Chicago, Iowa and Ohio. In 1883 he made a trip with his parents to Washington, D. C., the Mammoth Cave in Kentucky, Louisville, St. Louis, Colorado, the Rocky Mountains, New Mexico, Arizona, the Yosemite Valley, Monterey, Santa Cruz, Big Trees, the Sierra Mountains in California, Utah, the Great Canon, Royal Gorge, returning via Nebraska. He also made another visit in Iowa, stopping off at Chicago. From there he went to Niagara Falls, attended the great Saengerfest at Buffalo for five days, then went to Summit Mountain in Pennsylvania and returned home. In 1886 he made a trip with his parents to Europe. They visited Liverpool, London, Brussels, Cologne, took a trip up the Rhine, and then went to Wiesbaden, Frankfurt, Berlin, Dresden, Vienna, Salzburg, Munich, all over Switzerland and Paris. Again in 1889 he visited these same places, and in addition traveled through Italy, visiting Geneva, Pisa, Milan, Florence, Naples, Rome and Venice, returning over the Alps by Brenner Pass to Munich.

He also visited the birthplaces of his ancestors and made photographic pictures of Dreisen, the birthplace of his father; Breunigweiler, the birthplace of our cousins in Iowa; also of Goelheim, the Neuhof near Altleiningen. The pictures appear on pages 21, 25 and 33 of this book.

He also visited Paris and the World's Fair Exhibition held there in 1889, returning home by way of London and Liverpool, crossing the Atlantic Ocean on the Steamer "Umbria" in six and one-half days each way.

In 1891 he visited California, and assisted in the management of the fruit canning establishment, owned and operated by his father and Mr. R. Hickmott at Oakland, California, until late in the fall.

In 1892 he, in company with his father, again visited California to assist in the management of their fruit canning establishment, and remained until the middle of December.

In the year 1893 he visited the Chicago World's Fair, staying there for several months, assisting in the management of the exhibit of fine preserved fruits shown by the Philip J. Ritter Conserve Company.

In the year 1896 he visited friends and relatives in Ohio. From there he went to Niagara Falls, the Thousand Islands and by steamer down the St. Lawrence River to Montreal, returning home by way of Lake Champlain, Lake George, Saratoga Springs and by steamer on the Hudson River to New York.

He also made several other trips, notable among them being his wedding trip with his wife in 1898; also to the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904; also a great many business trips to various cities of the United States as treasurer of the Fruit Preservers' Association.

He is treasurer and director of the Philip J. Ritter Conserve Company, a member of the Masonic Order, belongs to Lodge Number 9, Philadelphia; and is also a member of a number of other societies.

## BIOGRAPHY OF KATHARINA RITTER

(Koch or Cook)

Katherina, only daughter of Johannes and Elizabeth Ritter, of Dreisen, was born in the year 1834.

She received her education at the schools of her native town. She was a good scholar, mastering all the branches of learning that were taught there. At the age of fourteen years her school term expired, and she was confirmed in the Protestant Church. After leaving school she assisted her mother, learning housekeeping by doing the household duties as one of her age could do.

At the age of eighteen she left home and came by steamer down the Rhine to Havre de Grace, and from there by sailing vessel to New York. She was on the ocean seventy-six days and suffered from many severe storms and seasickness while making the trip.

She came to Philadelphia and engaged in doing housework until she married, in 1854, Mr. Johannes Koch, who changed his name to John Cook. Four children were born to them, three daughters and one son. One of the daughters died in infancy. The others are still living. Their names are:

Louisa, the oldest, born in 1858.

Amelia, born in 1860.

George, born in 1864.

Louisa and George Cook have remained single. Amelia was married to Mr. John Vogler.

Katherina and her husband have engaged in the retail grocery business the greater part of their life. They have been quite successful and accumulated wealth during the years of their active business life. By being saving and frugal, they are possessed of sufficient of this world's goods to live retired with a good competency, and are still enjoying good health.

Mr. John Cook was born at Weingarten in the Grand Duchy of Baden, Germany, in 1830.

He received his education at the school of his native town. After the expiration of his school term he was apprenticed to a locksmith, and served four years of apprenticeship until he learned the business.



JOHN COOK, and his wife, KATHARINA RITTER COOK, of Philadelphia.





He came to the United States and to Philadelphia about the year 1850. At first he engaged in the business that he had learned, but afterward he learned and worked as machinist for several years. After this, having saved his earnings, he was enabled to buy out a retail grocery business, and has conducted this business for the greater part of his life. After selling out his grocery business, he engaged for several years in the manufacture of plate glass. He also sold out this business and lives retired.

Amelia Cook, second daughter of John and Katherina Cook, of Philadelphia, was married to Mr. John Vogler, of Philadelphia. They have had three children born to them, two sons and one daughter.

Mr. Vogler has engaged in the wholesale drygoods commission business for a number of years, and has been quite a successful merchant. His business house is well and favorably known throughout the United States. He is the distributor of large quantities of drygoods for a number of factories in and about Philadelphia.

He is possessed of considerable wealth, from the profits of his business, and also from the inheritance from his parents and his brother, George Vogler.

He seemed to be in delicate health for a number of years, but is at the present time enjoying the best of health and is becoming quite stout. His wife, Amelia, who during early life seemed to be small and delicate, has of late years become quite robust and stout.



## CHRISTIAN RITTER

### Fourth Son of John Ritter of Dreisen

Christian Ritter, fourth son of Johannes Ritter, of Dreisen, married Mary Hoefler, of Pottsville, Pa. They live in Philadelphia and he is vice-president of the Philip J. Ritter Conserve Company and superintendent of the preserve works at Philadelphia.

Christian Ritter was born on Good Friday, April 4, 1844, the youngest of thirteen children, in the village of Dreisen, a seemingly obscure but historic town; in that its main highway (Kaiser Strasse) was made famous by the disastrous retreat of Napoleon I from Russia to France.

When Christian Ritter was five years old, that was in the year of 1849, there was a revolution started by the people of Bavaria against King Ludwig on account of the excessive taxation to meet the demands of Lola Montez, the King's mistress. The king of Prussia sent an army through every village of Bavaria and after many battles that were fought stubbornly by the Bavarians they were finally dispersed by the Prussian army with an overwhelming force. But the patriotic feeling ran so high that the children and even the women wore the national colors of freedom and would sing songs of which the following is a sample that he yet remembers:—

Ach du alter Ludwig König,  
Warum gibts du heut so wenig  
Und du kommst von deinem Thron,  
Und die Lola kriegt ihr'n Lohn.

These demonstrations of freedom and liberty against the King of Bavaria were soon forbidden by the government and any one singing this song or wearing the colors were promptly arrested and heavily fined.

This is only briefly related to show that the birthplace of Christian Ritter being so little on the map of the world, still had its history.

At the age of six years he was sent to school. He went willingly, but when he faced the stern looking schoolmaster, he promptly ran away, but was captured and sent back to school. In place of the afore-said stern-looking schoolmaster using the rod, he resorted to bribery, giving him a Kreutzer every morning for one week.



CHRISTIAN RITTER, and his wife, MARY HOEFER RITTER, of Philadelphia.



Christian, like a dutiful son, gave the Kreutzer to his mother to save, but she returned it to the schoolmaster daily to make its rounds of usefulness.

His school days lasted only one year in Dreisen.

At the age of seven, together with his family, he went to the United States. As part of the family had gone previously they were joined, or received, in the City of New York, by his brothers John and Philip J. The voyage lasted thirty days on a sailing vessel.

He stayed in New York about three days and then went to the City of Philadelphia, where he attended the public schools.

At the age of thirteen he left school to learn his trade as fancy cake baker with his brother Philip J., and worked for him for five years, then as journeyman started in to work for other people.

He was always a hard worker and his main aim was to reach the top round of his profession.

At the age of sixteen, while still working at his trade, he found time in the evenings to join the Philadelphia Turners (a famous athletic association). Being used to hard work, he naturally became a great athlete. He was widely known as the strongest young man for his age in the City of Philadelphia. He was the star gymnast at several performances at the Philadelphia Academy Music and other public halls.

At the age of nineteen he went to the City of Washington, D. C., to follow his trade as confectioner and fancy cake baker. This was during the administration of Abraham Lincoln, while the war was going on between the North and South. He was there about one year, and during that time he made all the ornamental work to decorate the tables at a banquet given in honor of General U. S. Grant. This banquet was given just previous to his taking command of the Army of the Potomac.

Vice-President Colfax gave a reception every Friday evening during that whole winter and Christian Ritter made all the decorations for him. As he was especially fond of Philadelphia fancy cakes, of which one thousand cakes were furnished at each reception.

When the United States Patent Office was opened with a fair, he made an ornamental pyramid that was seven feet high and took four men to carry it. After the fair was over a banquet and ball was given

where he also distinguished himself by making some grand unique ornaments.

He was guest of honor at a picnic given by the Washington, Baltimore and Georgetown Turners, in the City of Washington, D. C.

About that time he had a very good offer to take a position as clerk in the War Department, but as it was necessary for him to be sworn in as a soldier, in case Washington should be attacked by the Rebels, the clerks were to act in defence of the city. His family did not want him to be sworn in. On this account they opposed it and sent for him to come back to Philadelphia at once, where he again joined his brother Philip J. at his trade.

He had a letter intrusted to him by a friend in the City of Washington to be delivered to this certain friend's sister, who resided in Philadelphia, and as this young lady happened to be very beautiful it was only natural that he should fall in love with her, which was reciprocated by the aforesaid young lady. Her name was Mary L. Hoeffler, who was on a visit to relations in Philadelphia at that time. The home of her parents was in Pottsville, Pa.

After a short courtship they were married. His wife, Mary L. was born April 4, 1848, in the town of Esslingen, Wuerttemberg, Germany. She came to the United States with her parents when an infant; she had two brothers and three sisters.

They were married while very young, Christian was only twenty and his wife, Mary L., sixteen.

Shortly after their marriage they started in a fancy cake and ice cream business, which lasted about nine years and were very successful for the time. He was compelled to give up business, because at the age of twenty-eight he was taken very sick with cerebro-spinal meningitis, which left him in a partially paralyzed condition. After his condition improved somewhat he joined his brother, Philip J., in the manufacture of fruit butters on June 15, 1874. He was very successful in making preserves, jellies, etc. He was the first one in the United States to conceive the idea of using an apple jelly body in all kinds of preserves which brought the price of preserves within the reach of the poorer classes. Previous to this it was only the rich that could indulge in such a luxury. His method has been copied by manufacturers all over the United States, showing that by his ingenuity



CHRISTIAN WILLIAM RITTER, and his wife, ANNA W. STRASSER RITTER, of Philadelphia, Pa.





and his brother Philip J. Ritter's business ability has brought a great revolution in the manufacture of preserves.

At the beginning the demands for these goods were so great that our capacity was too small. The buildings were enlarged and the name of Philip J. Ritter was then and it is to-day a guarantee all over the United States of having the finest preserves and jellies.

Later on a company was formed named the Philip J. Ritter Conserve Co., Philip J. Ritter being the president and Mr. Christian Ritter, vice-president, with a full paid-up capital of \$100,000.

At the date of this writing (1904) the aforesaid company has been in successful operation for twenty years, and Christian Ritter has been attending to the manufacturing for thirty years without intermission, counting ten years before it was formed into a company.

Christian Ritter and his wife had borne unto them twelve children, as follows:—

Elizabeth Regina, born in Philadelphia, March 21, 1865.

Christian William, born in Philadelphia, July 28, 1866.

Mary Amelia, born in Philadelphia, November 5, 1867.

Regina Matilda, born in Philadelphia, February 2, 1869.

Kathryne Pauline, born in Philadelphia, February 10, 1871.

Laura Adelia, born in Philadelphia, June 10, 1872.

Sarah Clair, born in Philadelphia, October 13, 1873.

Louisa May, born in Philadelphia, April 24, 1875.

Philip John, born in Philadelphia, October 14, 1877.

Charles August, born in Philadelphia, May 27, 1879.

Emma Rebecca, born in Philadelphia, September 8, 1881.

Lily Rose, born in Philadelphia, June 27, 1889.

Laura Adelia died at the age of 4 years 6 months, Regina Matilda at the age of sixteen.

The oldest daughter, Elizabeth R. Ritter, married Thomas Furey on September 24, 1885. Thomas Furey was born in Philadelphia, August 4, 1864. They had three children as follows:—

Christian D., born in Philadelphia, July 26, 1886.

Elizabeth May, born in Philadelphia, September 27, 1889.

Norman D., born in Philadelphia, April 12, 1892.

Her husband Thomas D., and their youngest son Norman D., died leaving her a widow with two children.

## CHRISTIAN WILLIAM RITTER

### Second Child of Christian and Mary L. Ritter

Christian William Ritter, second child of Christian and Mary L. Ritter, was born in Philadelphia, July 28, 1866, and was educated in the public schools, starting into work at the age of 14 years. His first position was with two sisters by the name of Baneroft, Quakers, who afterward sold out to Strawbridge & Clothier. After leaving there he procured a position in a stocking mill; from there went to work in a spinning mill.

In the year 1882, he was confirmed in the German Lutheran Church. At that time he started to take a six months' course of study in a business college and, when finished, procured a position as clerk with a wholesale grocery house. In all of the positions he occupied he was never discharged, receiving good recommendations from all.

On November 23, 1887, he married Anna W. Strasser, who is of fair complexion, strong of stature and hearty. Eleven months after he married, he engaged in the grocery business, and after four or five years sold out and engaged as a salesman for a tea and coffee firm. After selling goods for them for about a year, he again started out for himself in the oil business, without a customer, and going into a section of the country entirely unknown to him, namely, Wissahickon, Manayunk and Roxborough. He started with one horse, and in six months' time was obliged to purchase another, for the loads were getting too heavy for the one. He was then obliged to remove to a larger and more convenient place, and in about a year after, still prospering, purchased a home with stable attached, in Roxborough, where he still resides.

Four children were born to them:—

1. William Christian Ritter, born November 19, 1889, died May 31, 1894, with acute meningitis of brain.
2. Christian Ritter, born June 30, 1893, a scarcity for his age, being eleven years old, height four feet ten inches, waist measurement forty inches and weighs 155 pounds.
3. Anna K. Ritter, born August 10, 1895.
4. Estella M. Ritter, born April 27, 1898.



CHARLES AUGUST RITTER and Wife.





PHILIP J. RITTER, and his wife, LILLIAN M. BAUERS-RITTER, of Philadelphia, Pa.





Mary Amelia Ritter married Mr. Geo. Ruh, February 23, 1887. He died. She married her second husband, Mr. John Gluck, November 5, 1902. She has no children living; she had one child by her first husband, born September 28, 1887, which died November 28, 1887.

Kathryne Pauline Ritter married Geo. Goeppinger on February 8, 1893. They have two children:—

Beatrice, born January 7, 1896.

Leroy, born March 29, 1901.

Sarah Clair Ritter married Chas. H. Lehr on May 18, 1892. Mr. Chas. H. Lehr was born on May 9, 1863. They had four children as follows:—

Lewis C., born May 14, 1895.

Selma E., born November 10, 1901.

Marie Eva, born March 2, 1894.

Carl Henry, born July 16, 1897.

The last two named died. Carl Henry, April 9, 1899, and Marie Eva on August 12, 1894.

Louisa May Ritter married J. Frederick Dietrich. They have had two children. Their first child died and the last. Frederick Dietrich Ritter, Grand Child of Christian Ritter of Philadelphia, was born November 28, 1900.

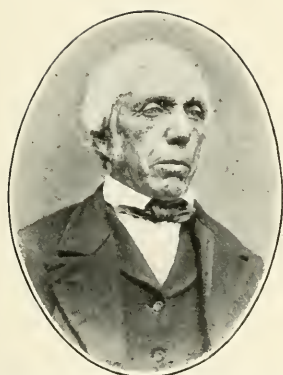
## PHILIP J. RITTER

Philip J. Ritter, ninth child of Christian and Mary L. Ritter, born in Philadelphia October 14, 1877, is five feet ten and three-quarter inches in height, stout and of dark complexion.

After having passed through all the branches of the public schools successfully, he entered the employ of The W. J. McCahan Sugar Refining Co., in the capacity of collector. After having made a special study of the sugar business, he engaged in the sugar and syrup brokerage business, trading as Ritter & Wilson, and did very well, considering the keen and older competition. Philip J. Ritter was at that time the youngest broker in Philadelphia.

From the above business he entered the typewriter field, having been induced by a friend to attempt this line, in place of selling sugar. This was and has been up to the present time a very successful undertaking, it not only being a profitable business, but enabled him to see a very large portion of this country.

In June, 1900, he married Lillian M. Bauers, who is of fair complexion. On July 24, 1901, their first child, a daughter, Lillian, was born, and who resembles her father in both features and disposition. What is most remarkable is, that Philip J. Ritter and his younger brother Charles A. Ritter, married two sisters and have, from the day they were married until the present day, lived together as one family.



JOHANN PHILIP RITTER, and his wife, KATHARINA SCHREINER-RITTER,  
late of Keokuk County, Iowa.



## CHARLES AUGUST RITTER

Charles August Ritter, the tenth child and youngest of three sons of Christian and Mary L. Ritter, was born in Philadelphia May 27, 1879. He was educated in the public schools of Philadelphia and was meritorious in passing through the different classes in school. September, 1895, he entered the employ of the P. J. Ritter Conserve Company, and learned the business of manufacturing all their products, under the supervision of his father, Christian Ritter.

In 1900 he was appointed assistant superintendent over the manufacturing department. He is of a medium complexion, blue eyes, five feet five inches tall, weight two hundred pounds, and has a jolly disposition. He is very fond of music, having first played the piano at a concert at the age of twelve years. Since then he has performed in nearly all the entertainment halls of Philadelphia.

On April 11, 1898, he married Mary E. Bauers. Their first child, Carl A. Ritter, was born August 15, 1889. He has a fair complexion and is tall and active for his age. Their second child, a girl, Marion R. Ritter, was born January 25, 1902. She is of light complexion, and is gifted with a wonderful memory, at the age of twenty-six months being able to recite about six or eight recitations and sing several songs.

Now in conclusion will say that while the family of Christian Ritter, Sr., is unusually large they are all very affectionate and loving to each other and to their parents. They have a gathering every New Year's Day at the old homestead, which is attended only by our immediate family. At the gathering, New Year's Day 1905, there were twenty-three children and grandchildren, their parents and grandparents, thirty-three persons belonging to the family.



## BIOGRAPHY OF JOHANN PHILIP RITTER OF BREUNIGWEILER

Johann Philip Ritter, fourth son of George Christian and Eva Ritter, was born June 24, 1801, at the NeuhoF near Altleiningen. He received his education at the school of Altleiningen, mastering all branches that were taught with ease, and at the age of fourteen ended his school term. He was confirmed in the Protestant Church of the town.

He assisted his parents on the estate, doing such work as a person of his age could do. When his parents removed to Poland, John Philip decided not to go with them. He said to his brothers Lorenz and Johannes, "if you don't go, I will stay here with you." Valentine Schreiner, of Breunigweiler, his uncle, had a large possession of land and needed additional help to work and manage his affairs, and John Philip stayed with him for seven years. During this time, he and his uncle's daughter Katharine made love to each other and finally were married and started out for themselves. John Philip had saved his earnings, quite a sum of money in those times, and his wife inherited considerable land and money. With his savings and his wife's inheritance, they were comfortably situated and he was prosperous in his undertakings and accumulated considerable wealth, notwithstanding he had a large family of children to raise. Johann Philip's married life was a happy one, both he and his wife being good natured and having pleasant dispositions.

John Philip was five feet eight inches tall, broad shouldered and well proportioned, with an oval face, sincere pleasant expression, dark brown eyes, and dark nearly black hair. In his younger years, he was as handsome a man as his wife was a handsome woman. At forty-five his hair was quite gray, while his face looked rosy and youthful. John Philip was a kind-hearted husband and father to his family; was kind-hearted and had a good word for every one; was well liked by the people of his town and they elected him first Burgomaster several times. This office he held until he came to the United States of America. This was a hard step for him to take, to leave his native country where his friends lived, where he was honored as the first citizen of his town; but

there was an incentive for him to come to this country. Five of his children, the oldest, had already gone to the new world and were doing well in their new home; and the business conditions in Germany did not look very promising for the future of the five children he had at home.

He sold his land and personal property and started for the new world in 1857. Schiller, the great German poet, says, "No mortal has ever enjoyed life's unmixed pleasure;" so it was with the subject of this sketch. It was a sad event for him when his parents, his brothers and sisters parted from him, to go to a far off foreign country (Poland), to never meet again in this world; it was equally sad for him when he, with his wife and children, left their native home to part forever from friends that were dear; from a home that had by hard work been created; from his townspeople, whose friend and adviser he had been, and who had honored him by electing him their Burgomaster several times. Many tears flowed on the parting of him and his family, by them and their friends, for they perhaps would never meet again.

Men have duties to perform; these they owe to themselves and their families. That their welfare should be the first consideration to take in mind and stand firm in these duties, for it often requires great sacrifice to attain great results, and all sentiment has to be put to one side, and such was the case with him. They started on their long journey, suffering many hardships on the trip to America, for many of the family became very sick on the ocean. One of his children was laying unconscious for a day, but the doctor resuscitated and brought it to life. They landed safely in New York, and after a short stay started on their long and tedious journey to the West, experiencing many hardships on account of not being able to speak English. They traveled by railroad and steamboat to Burlington, Iowa. At Burlington he bought a pair of horses and a wagon and traveled through country that had no roads to speak of and where there was a water famine. There had been such a draught in Iowa that people were suffering for the want of water. John Philip Ritter and his family had to pay a good price for water for themselves and horses during this eighty mile trip from Burlington, Iowa, to Dahlanica, Iowa, where his five oldest children resided.

John Philip after arriving had the great pleasure of seeing his whole family once more around him, and tears of joy flowed freely. Soon after his arrival in Iowa he bought a farm of eighty acres of land with buildings on it. He and his families' hearts were glad that they all had a new home in the new world. Their gladness was of short duration, for but a few months after his arrival, their son John Philip, Jr., took sick with typhoid fever and died. During the first winter he had the misfortune to lose the pair of horses he bought at Burlington, Iowa, and paid \$300 for. This was not only a heavy pecuniary loss, but it put them to great disadvantage, as he needed the team to cultivate his land. It took John Philip and his wife several years until they got accustomed to the ways of the people of their new home. After that they became better contented and enjoyed life again. What contributed largely to this condition was that after 1863 all country products, wheat, barley, corn and oats, yielded very high prices, also pork and beef. Horses and cattle brought high prices. This made the whole country prosperous. There is not anything in this world to make people happier than prosperity.

John Philip Ritter, in August, 1867, visited his relatives near Hamilton in the State of Ohio. He stayed about one month and enjoyed his visit very much. One month later his nephew, Philip J. Ritter, of Philadelphia, his wife and child and his brother-in-law, visited John Philip and his family, and also the other relations in that part of the country. Philip J. Ritter by his visit seemed to put new life into him and his family. Philip J. Ritter and party stayed about one month in Iowa visiting, and very often uncle and aunt Ritter accompanied their guests to the various relatives. Philip J. Ritter by his lively, cheerful, and jovial disposition livened up his surroundings wherever he went.

John Philip Ritter lived contented the later years of his life until he died in January 22, 1871.

John Philip and his wife, Katharine Schreiner, had fourteen children, all born at Brennigweiler; three died in infancy. The others are:

1. Johannes, or John, born at Brennigweiler, September 8, 1827.

2. Philip, born on May 1, 1835, died in Iowa, December 23, 1857, unmarried.
3. Daniel, born in 1832, October 22.
4. Philipina, born March 6, 1838.
5. Margaret, born July 16, 1831, came to America in 1852, married Robert Person, Butler County, Ohio, died in childbirth after one year's marriage.
6. Elizabeth, born July 15, 1839.
7. Andrew, born June 2, 1841.
8. William, born July 6, 1843.
9. Katharine, born March 1, 1845.
10. Frederick, born September 5, 1846.
11. Theresia, born October 1, 1848.

## BIOGRAPHY OF KATHARINA RITTER

### Wife of John Philip Ritter of Breunigweiler

Katharina Ritter, wife of John Philip Ritter, was a daughter of Valentine and Elizabeth Schreiner and was born at Breunigweiler 1808. She received her education at the school of her native place and was a very good scholar, learning all that was taught there with ease.

After her school years she learned first knitting and fine needle work, and after these cooking and household duties, and was the assistant of her mother. Her mother was thorough in all branches of female requirements in the household, and all her daughters were learned in the ways of their mother, namely to be correct, quick and energetic.

Katherina was one of the youngest daughters, and had to assume the duties of a large household and family after her older sisters were married. Her father was the wealthiest man of the town and, like in all European communities, the family had to keep up a certain amount of dignity, and this dignity becomes a sort of second nature to their children which they instinctively inherit and carry with them throughout life, and this was also the case of the subject of this sketch.

Katherina grew up to be a beautiful girl. She had a light complexion, a large round face, very rosy cheeks and large blue eyes. She had a cheerful countenance and you would think she could only smile and laugh when meeting her.

When she was of marriageable age, she and her cousin, John Philip Ritter, who was then living with her parents, were married. During her middle life, that is about the age of forty, she became quite stout. She had fourteen children. Three died in infancy, the others grew up to manhood.

Katherina was a very healthy person and fond of society and visiting her friends and relatives. It was, therefore, a great hardship to her to leave her friends and her native place to come to America. She also felt very keen the want of these associates after arriving in this country for a long time, although she lived right in the midst of her married children and other relatives.

She was very kind and tender hearted to her children and her husband, sharing all their joys and sorrows through life. One of the greatest pleasures of her life was when she accompanied in 1873 her Nephew Philip J. Ritter, who had visited her at her home in Iowa, to his home in Philadelphia and on their way East visited their relations near Hamilton, Ohio. She remained with her nephew's family nearly two months, and was entertained with a continuous pleasure of carriage rides and sightseeing until she returned to her home again.

She retained good health through life and died in Iowa at her home February 19, 1888, and is buried in a cemetery in Keokuk County near her former home beside her husband, and each of their graves are marked by very nice monuments.



## JOHN RITTER

### First Son of John Philip and Katharina Ritter of Breunigweiler

Mr. John Ritter, of Hedrick, Iowa, was born in Breunigweiler, Rheinpfalz, Germany, September 8, 1827, and received his education at the town school until the age of fourteen years, and when 19 years of age he left his native country. He learned the business of agriculture with his father. He traveled with some friend by wagon to the seaport Havre De Grace, distance about 500 miles, by way of Metz and Paris, then by sailing vessel to New York. He landed in the city of New York, U. S. A., after about two months, and it required another month to go from New York by steamboat and canal boat to Ohio, where he located in Butler County, and lived for six years. During this time he made choice of a wife, Miss Caroline Hecker, who, with him, emigrated to the wild State of Iowa, as it was that time, in 1852. The howlings of the wolves made night hideous, and other wild animals, such as the catamount, badger and the harmless deer roamed the fields at night and stole grain from the farms. Not only these, but the Indian, or "red man," as he was called, was almost a daily visitor to terrorize the tiller of the soil. Mr. John Ritter was a pioneer of the State of Iowa. He saw many changes in the State before he died. He saw the wild nature giving way to the lovely homes and beautiful cities, surrounded by valuable farms.

Mr. John Ritter emigrated from Ohio to Iowa, traveling all the way with team and wagon, a distance of 700 miles. This occupied two months time. Now there is a perfect network of railroads from Ohio to Iowa. In the State of Iowa alone, in the year 1901, there were 8,527 miles of railroad. When Mr. J. Ritter crossed the briny deep, it took him forty-four days to make the journey in sail boat. Now the mighty steamer can cross the great ocean in from five to six days.

Mr. John Ritter's first wife died June 14, 1853. Only one child was born to them, which died in infancy. Mr. Ritter was again married November 27, 1853, to Miss Christina Ackerman, of Dahlonga, Wapello County, Iowa.



JOHN RITTER, and his wife, CHRISTINA ACKERMAN-RITTER, of Hedrick, Ia.



The second wife of John Ritter traveled in a wagon with her parents the long distance from Ohio to Iowa, bearing many hardships with her husband in early days. She now resides in Hedrick, Iowa, and their children all get their mail at the same address.

Mr. Ritter's occupation through life was that of a farmer. He bought a farm in Keokuk County and lived on it until he died. This farm joined the farm of his mother and father. His second wife was a native of Butler County, Ohio, and his first cousin. They had twelve children, four of whom are living. John Ritter died May 21, 1891.

Their first born were twins (sons), who died in infancy.

Their third child was Mary Matilda, who was born May 2, 1856, and who was married October 16, 1883, to Charles W. Sykes, of Hedrick, Iowa. Four children were born to them, all of whom died in infancy. In 1903 they adopted two orphan children of Mr. Sykes' brother, John Sykes. Their names are Ruth Jewell Sykes, aged at this writing, nine years, and Wesley S. Sykes, five years of age. Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Sykes have been very successful financially, having commenced married life with a mere pittance which they had saved previous to their marriage. At the present time they have 233 acres of fine farm land, worth \$100 per acre; a fine business block in the town of Hedrick, and a fine home in Hedrick. Mr. Charles W. Sykes has traveled quite extensively, his first trip being to St. Louis and Southern Illinois. Next he traveled to the World's Fair in Chicago, Illinois. Then he took a trip to Niagara Falls, New York, and visited Canada. I will say just here that Mrs. Charles W. Sykes took no interest in travel up to this time. Then she commenced to travel with her husband. Their first trip was to the Trans-Mississippi Exposition in Omaha, Nebraska. Then in 1901 and 1902 they visited the Pacific Coast states and Old Mexico, visiting all the principal cities on the route: Denver, Colorado, Salt Lake City, Utah, the home of the Mormons, or the home of polygamy in America. Thence to Sacramento City, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Pasadena, California. They were absent seven months from home.

Mr. Sykes is of English descent. His grandparents moved from England to America. Iowa, the State in which Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Sykes live, is the banner corn State of the United States of America.

The third child, John P. Ritter, was born November 15, 1858, and

was married to Cornelia Bennett, October 1, 1885. She died May 4, 1889. To this union was born two children: Frank A. was born April 2, 1887; Elsie May was born April 26, 1889, and was reared by her grandmother Ritter. John P. Ritter was again married October 25, 1893, to Harriet Angeline Ruggles. To this union was born two children: Virgil Leland was born January 30, 1896; Lonnie was born May 15, 1898, and died June 29, 1902. He lives in Hedrick, Iowa.

Adeline C., the fifth child, was born November 7, 1860, and was married to John Allman March 10, 1885. To this union were born four children: Minnie A. was born December 14, 1885, and died January 13, 1899; Freddie A. was born March 15, 1888, Eddie A. was born March 15, 1888, Carrie Elsie was born August 13, 1890. John Allman was a native of Ohio, and emigrated with his father to Fremont, Mahaska County, Iowa. He lives at Keokuk County, and is a farmer.

Elizabeth Ann, sixth child, was born January 12, 1864. She is unmarried and lives at home with her mother at Hedrick, Iowa.

Frederick William, seventh child, was born May 16, 1866, and died November 1, 1871.

George Alexander, eighth child, was born May 27, 1868, and died February 19, 1871.

Joseph V., ninth child, was born October 18, 1870, and died October 22, 1871.

Charles C., tenth child, was born December 4, 1871, and died January 22, 1878.



CHARLES W. SYKES, and wife, MARY MATILDA RITTER-SYKES, of Hedrick, Ia.





## BIOGRAPHY OF DANIEL RITTER

### Third Son of John Philip and Catharine Ritter of Breunigweiler

Daniel Ritter, third son of John Philip and Catharine Ritter, was born October 22, 1832, at Brenmigweiler, Bavaria, Germany. At the age of twenty-one he, in 1853, made the trip from home by way of Forbach in France to Paris, sailed from Havre to America, was on the ocean forty-seven days, arrived in New York, April 16, 1853. From there he traveled by canal boat and railroad to Cincinnati, Ohio, was there one week and from there he came in a steamboat down the Ohio River to St. Louis and by steamboat up the Mississippi River to Keokuk, and from there he came in a carriage to Agency, Wapello County, Iowa, as there was not any railroads in Iowa at that time, and from Agency he came to Dahlonga to his uncle Jacob Löwenburg, stayed there a few days, and his Uncle Jacob Lowenburg took him to his brother John's home, who lived on a farm in Keokuk County, Iowa. When he arrived at his brother's home, Daniel's wealth consisted of two shirts and one pair of pants besides the suit of clothes he had on his body, and nine dollars debt. That was the start he had in Iowa. Daniel went to work and received from the farmers he worked for ten and twelve dollars per month and his board. He saved his earnings and with it bought 60 acres of land in Wapello County, Iowa, in the year 1862, paying ten dollars per acre. Daniel was married March 8, 1863, to Mary Catharine Kielkopf. She was born August 13, 1839, in Wuerttemberg near Goebingen, Germany, came with her parents to Iowa in 1857. Daniel and wife moved to the little farm of 60 acres in 1864, lived there until 1870, when he traded the 60 acres farm for 80 acres, four miles north of where they lived, and in 1873 bought 40 acres more for \$1000, and in 1895 bought 34 more acres, total 154 acres of land, and this farm he still owns.

In the year 1901 he retired from farming and moved to the town of Hedrick, Keokuk County, Iowa, to live a retired life. All his life-time he had never been over twenty miles from home, so on October 6, 1903, he and his brother Andrew took a trip to Ohio to visit his cousins there. He met a great many of his friends, some of whom he had not seen for fifty years. They enjoyed the trip very much.

Daniel Ritter and family live in a very pretty house with delightful surroundings and are comfortable. Daniel and Catharine Ritter had eight children:—

1. Philip Ritter was born March 1, 1864, in Wapello County, Iowa. He was married to Mary Grovier, January 1, 1891, and bought and lived on a farm in Keokuk County, and in 1903 he traded this farm for 320 acres near Maple City in Kansas where he now lives. They have six children:—

1. Owen A. Ritter was born October 4, 1891.
2. Roy Ritter was born April 3, 1893.
3. Effa M. Ritter was born May 19, 1895.
4. Floyd E. Ritter was born July 11, 1900.
5. Clyde R. Ritter was born August 15, 1902.
6. Fern. E. Ritter was born April 7, 1904.

2. Phoebe Ritter was born January 19, 1866, in Wapello County, Iowa, lives with her parents. In 1893 went to Chicago to the exposition.

3. Katie Ritter was born January 23, 1868, in Wapello County, Iowa, was married to Peter Deutschle, formerly of Breunigweiler, February 6, 1887, they settled in Keokuk County, Iowa. They have three children.

1. Charlie Deutschle, born April 14, 1888.
2. Lester Deutschle, born January 5, 1891.
3. Earl Deutschle, born December 5, 1895.

4. Lizzie Ritter, born January 11, 1871, in Wapello County, Iowa, was married to Fred. McClung, May 8, 1894, settled in Wapello County, Iowa. They have two children.

1. Jean McClung, born December 19, 1894.
2. Blanch McClung, born May 8, 1897.

5. Mary T. Ritter, born November 28, 1873, in Wapello County, Iowa, was married to George Dillon, September 27, 1899, settled in Wapello County, Iowa. They have two children:—

1. Abna C. Dillon, born September 14, 1900.
2. Nora I. Dillon, born February 10, 1903.

6. John Ritter, born December 8, 1876, in Wapello County, Iowa, was married to Fannie Stem, January 7, 1903, settled in Keokuk



DANIEL RITTER, and his wife, MARY CATHARINA KUEHLKOPF-RITTER, of Hedrick, Iowa.



County, Iowa. They have one child, Lola I. Ritter, born September 22, 1903.

7. Armanda L. Ritter, born November 3, 1879, in Wapello County, Iowa, was married to Emanuel Reek, March 8, 1903, settled in Keokuk County, Iowa. They have one child, Hazel F. Reek, born December 28, 1903.

8. Ida M. Ritter was born September 16, 1883, and died June 23, 1884.



## PHILIPINA RITTER-SCHERTZ

**Daughter of John Philip and Catharine Ritter of Breunigweiler**

Phoebe Philipina Ritter, daughter of John Philip and Catharine Ritter, born in Breunigweiler, Germany, on March 6, 1838. When eighteen years of age, 1856, she emigrated to America, with some friends or relations, after a voyage of forty-seven days on the Atlantic Ocean, in which time she endured many hardships and witnessed many scenes of disaster. When on the voyage about twenty-three days she experienced a narrow escape from death; a large ice berg came near striking the vessel she was on; all the passengers fearing the vessel would be capsized. They felt very fortunate and thankful that they lived to see America. Every passenger on the vessel was seasick with the exception of Philipina, she enjoying good health. After visiting friends in New York City and viewing some of the magnificent scenes of that city, she started on her western voyage, stopping in Columbus City, Ohio, for three months working as a servant to earn money enough to continue her voyage to Iowa, coming by steamboat down the Ohio River and to St. Louis and from there to Keokuk, Iowa. There were no railroads at that time. From there she came in a wagon to Ottumwa. The town of Ottumwa had only five hundred inhabitants, while at the present time it has twenty-five thousand inhabitants, with very nice buildings and many fine improvements. From there she continued her voyage to her aunt's who resided twelve miles from Ottumwa. In passing over that distance of twelve miles she saw only two logcabins, while at present, houses can be seen at a less distance than half a mile. She saw also many Indian camps along the way. She visited at her aunt's and brother for a short time and then went to work as a servant girl at Fremont, Iowa. She met Joseph Schertz and after an acquaintance of a short time they were united in marriage on January 25, 1857. Joseph Schertz, born in France, January 9, 1812, in Loraine, formerly a French, now a German province, came to America in 1833. When twenty-one years of age he immigrated to America, his mother and sister coming with him, he paying their expenses. They were forty-seven days crossing the ocean, he experiencing much sea sickness, landing in New York in the spring of the



JOSEPH SCHERTZ, and his wife, PHILIPPINA RITTER-SCHERTZ, of Dahlonega, Wapello County, Iowa.



year and staying there one year working as a farm hand to get money enough to continue his voyage, only receiving a salary of fifty cents a day. Then deciding to go further west, he went to Trenton, Butler County, Ohio, where he learned the trade of miller. Working at that trade for twenty years saving considerable money, and hearing of the land farther west he made up his mind to be one of the early settlers. He came by steamboat from Cincinnati down the Ohio River and up the Mississippi River as far as Burlington, Iowa, where he purchased a team and wagon to continue his voyage, as there were no railroads further west. He and a companion crossed the country and bought the farm where he now resides in Section 4, Dahlonga Township, Wapello County, Iowa. He purchased this farm of 222 acres at \$10 an acre and he met with great success being a prosperous farmer. At present he could sell it at \$100 an acre. He is ninety-two years of age and can read without glasses and is apparently in good health. To this union was born thirteen children.

1. Philip H. Schertz, born December 22, 1858. He is unmarried and lives at the parental home.

2. Katharine, born February 22, 1859. She married John H. Brown at Ottumwa, Iowa, March 12, 1881. To this union were twelve children. Four deceased. The living are:—

1. Julia Elisa Brown, born November 1, 1882. Married to Andrew Gilbert. To this union was born two children.

1. Anna Mae Gilbert.

2. Laren Gilbert.

They reside on a farm near Tecamah, Nebraska.

2. James Buckner Brown, born October 29, 1884.

3. Metta Junie Brown, born October 29, 1887.

4. Phoebe Brown, born January 26, 1889.

5. William Brown, born February 25, 1896.

6. Gladys Mary Brown, born December 5, 1901.

John H. Brown and family reside at present on a farm near Stuart, Neb.

3. Theresia Schertz, born April 27, 1860, unmarried, see biography.

4. Andrew Schertz, born October 29, 1861. Died in infancy.

5. Matilda Schertz, born September 21, 1862. Was united in marriage to G. D. Robertson, September 24, 1884. To this union five children were born, as follows (see biography) :—

1. Joseph Robertson, born July 26, 1885.
2. Lizzie Robertson, born December 7, 1888.
3. William Robertson, born January 4, 1892.
4. Ruth Robertson, born June 6, 1901.
5. Earl Robertson, born November 10, 1902.

(See biography.)

6. Elizabeth Schertz, born December 9, 1864, and died April 28, 1894.

7. Phoebe, born June 2, 1866. She was united in marriage to Charles W. Young, December 31, 1890. They reside at Stillwater, Oklahoma. To this union was born six children.

1. Kenneth Roscoe Young, born June 5, 1892.
2. Joseph Everet Young, born December 31, 1894.
3. Trissie Elizabeth born August 30, 1895.
4. Verle Louisa, born November 9, 1899.
5. John Gaylord, born July 12, 1901.
6. Baby boy, born March 10, 1904.

8. Joseph C. Schertz, born June 22, 1868. See biography.

9. Louisa, born January 9, 1872. She was united in marriage to Samuel Dimmitt, who was born October 25, 1866. They have six children :—

1. Harry Dimmitt, born October 19, 1891.
2. Austin Dimmitt, born May 6, 1894.
3. Hazel Dimmitt, born January 6, 1896.
4. Rex Urban Dimmitt, born December 6, 1898.
5. Louisa Dimmitt, born October 8, 1900.
6. Merle Dimmitt, born July 23, 1903.

10. Caroline Schertz, born January 22, 1875. Unmarried, is in St. Louis, Missouri, as stenographer and typewriter at the World's Fair.

11. Flora Schertz, born August 30, 1877. Unmarried, is at present in Chicago, Ill. She is manager of a millinery establishment.

12. Junie Mae, born December 7, 1880. Unmarried, lives at the parental home. Three children died in infancy.

## THERESIA E. SCHERTZ

Theresia E. Schertz was born April 27, 1860. She remained at home until she was eighteen years of age. Being the third child of a large family her education was limited.

She learned the millinery trade in Ottumwa, Iowa, and while learning had to work six months without pay. She remained in Ottumwa for two years, when she engaged in the business for herself at Fairfield, Iowa. Laboring under adverse circumstances did not discourage her in the least, her only ambition being to make the business a success, which she did in a few years by establishing the leading millinery in the town. She was never too busy to lend a helping hand to others less fortunate than herself.

In 1897, meeting with a favorable opportunity, she decided to sell out her business. Since then she has had the charge and management of several millinery establishments, which she has conducted successfully.

In 1885, while at Fairfield, she was converted and united with the Baptist Church and has been a faithful member ever since.

She has remained single and makes Fairfield her home.

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## JOSEPH C. SCHERTZ

Joseph C. Schertz was born June 22, 1868, at his father's home in Dahlonga Township. Here he remained until he reached his majority, receiving a common school education. He then attended Mrs. Peck's Normal School.

He represented the International Publishing Company, traveling through Iowa, Eastern Illinois, Minnesota and South Dakota. He attended the Iowa State Normal School at Cedar Falls, and was a successful teacher, being engaged in active school work for eleven years.

April 19, 1899, he was united in marriage to Nina Elsie McCoy. She was born August 15, 1877. To this union two children were born.

Roscoe, born May 19, 1901.

Vera Evelynne, born November 30, 1903.

Mr. Joseph C. Schertz and family reside on a farm adjoining his father's farm.



## MATHILDA SCHERTZ-ROBERTSON

Matilda Schertz, the daughter of Joseph and Phebe (Ritter) Schertz, was married to George D. Robertson on September 24, 1884. Five children resulted from this union, as follows: Joseph D., Elizabeth, William H., Ruth and Earl.

George D. Robertson is one of the progressive farmers of Wapello County, Iowa. He owns a farm of three hundred acres, and is engaged in farming and stock raising.

He was born in Highland Township, Wapello County, Iowa, January 11, 1854, and is the son of William and Elizabeth Robertson.

William Robertson, father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Perry County, Indiana, in 1820. He moved to Iowa with his father in 1843, and entered eighty acres of land from the Government in Section 29, Highland Township, where he was engaged in farming for a number of years. At present he is living a retired life in Ottumwa.

George D. Robertson lived in the vicinity of his present home. After receiving a common school education, he took a commercial course in the Ottumwa Business College and graduated from that institution in 1878, and then returned to his father's farm to engage in farming. He is now engaged in farming, and also given much time and attention to the raising of Poland China Hogs, in which industry he has been very successful. Mr. Robertson takes great interest in rearing good draft horses, and is a patron of the American Draft Horse Breeders' Association; also, a stockholder in the Standard Poland China Record Association, of Maryville, Mo.

Mr. and Mrs. Robertson are members of the Baptist Church. Fraternally Mr. Robertson is a member of the Odd Fellows' Order.

**ELIZABETH RITTER-MEIER**

**Daughter of John Philip and Katharine Ritter**

Elizabeth, eighth child of John Philip and Katharine Ritter, of Brennigweiler, Germany, was born July 15, 1839. Came to America with her parents in the year 1857. She lived with them till September 28, 1858, when she was married to George Meier, who was born October 1, 1823, in Katholsburg, near Nuernberg, Germany. Meier came to America in 1848 and worked in Ohio four years on a farm, after which he emigrated to the State of Iowa, which was then a new country. Bought 80 acres of land in Keokuk County, Benton Township, he living alone five years on his farm until he married. After they were married six years, in the year 1864, he was drafted into the United States army, leaving his wife and two children, serving as a soldier nine months. During this time he met with many hardships, traveling through nearly all the Southern States. He was in several skirmishes including the Kinston battle. After the war was ended he returned home to his family and pursued farming and stockraising, and added 360 acres more land to their farm. After years they sold some of this land and divided among the children. They lived on this farm until 1893, when they moved to the town of Hedrick, Iowa, and lived there one year, moving back to their old home where they now reside. George Meier is a good husband and kind father. He is eighty years old and very active yet, and can read without glasses. In the fall of 1903 he took a trip through Missouri to several cities, including St. Louis, where he saw them building for the exposition. Elizabeth is a good wife and mother, much devoted to her husband and children. To this union were born eleven children. Four died in infancy. Those living were:—

1. George, born August 5, 1859. He married Ida E. Bennett, who was born August 27, 1867. They were married March 10, 1887. They had four children. One died in infancy. Those living are:—

1. Lona, born August 27, 1885.
2. Jennie, born March 1, 1893.
3. Clyde B., born January 13, 1899.

2. Philip, born November 4, 1867. He married Katharine Kielkopf, September 26, 1889. They had six children, two died in infancy. Those living are:—

1. John Henry, born August 12, 1890.

2. Jacob, born December 7, 1896.

3 and 4. Charlie and Harry, born December 25, 1901.

3. Frederick, born April 4, 1867. He married Anna Deuser, who was born October 6, 1873. They were married February 22, 1893. They had three children. One died in infancy. Those living:—

1. Floyd E., born October 8, 1894.

2. Fern E., born October 16, 1897.

4. Theresa, born February 12, 1872, was married to George Sauer who was born October 1, 1869. They were married May 20, 1891. They had seven children, as follows:—

1. Harry, born June 2, 1892.

2. Earl, born October 2, 1893.

3. Evaline, born 3, 1895.

4. Blanche May, born May 27, 1897.

5. Alice Velma, born April 9, 1899.

6. Olie Opal, born March 23, 1901.

7. Daisy Genevieve, born April 8, 1903.

They reside in Keokuk County, Iowa.

5. Matilda M., born June 6, 1876, was married to Benj. D. Williams who was born January 18, 1875. They were married March 15, 1899. They have no children.

6. William, born August 19, 1878. Unmarried, lives at home.

7. Louise, born January 26, 1882. Unmarried, lives at home.

All these children have well-improved farms of their own and all live in Keokuk County, Iowa, except one daughter, Theresa, she lives in Wapello County, near the new town of Farson.



GEORGE MEIER, and his wife, ELIZABETH RITTER-MEIER,  
of Hedrick, Keokuk County, Iowa.



## AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF ANDREW RITTER

### The Ninth Child of Johann Philip and Catharine Ritter

Andrew Ritter, the ninth child of Johann Philip and Catharine Ritter was born at Brennigweiler, Bavaria, Germany, where he lived until sixteen years of age. He came with his parents to America in the year of 1857.

Here I want to make a few remarks about our trip. We had a big sailship, the "Halephazis." She carried 960 passengers. We hired an extra room besides the captain's room, so we were not crowded so much. After being on board about twenty days, we had an old lady to die. In the evening about dark, they buckled her on a board and slid her out in the sea, and the big fish being about the ship soon ate her up. A few days later my sister Theresia was taken sick and died, at least the doctor said she was dead and laid her out five hours. When the sailors were about to buckle her on a board, my good mother commenced shaking her and crying and praying for the good Lord to give her child back, and she came to and the doctor came and gave her some medicine and she was soon well again, and you will see her sketch on another page in this book.

We were forty-two days on the ship. When we got to New York, I went with my father to the bank to draw forty-five hundred dollars. This was what our check called for, and it was given to us in twenty dollar gold pieces. The gold was piled up from the floor to the ceiling, and I remember telling the banker that the people would not need to work if there was so much money, but I soon found out different. We had to carry that gold from New York to Iowa. That was in gold standard times.

We came by railroad to Burlington, Iowa, and there being no railroad from there, we had to buy a team to take our goods, and the family had to walk most of the way. This was a distance of about 85 miles. We landed near Ottumwa, Iowa, and at that time the town had less than 500 inhabitants.

We bought eighty acres of land and all the stock and machinery that the man had except his team, and we had bought a span of horses,

paying \$300 in gold for them, and they were both good enough to die the first year. Then we paid \$150 for a yoke of oxen which were good on the farm. We were then in need of harness, wagon and a cooking stove, which we sent our brother John to Keokuk to buy. This was a distance of eighty miles, and it took him a week to make the trip.

We worked together on the farm until I was past twenty-four years of age, when I bought a farm for myself of 120 acres of land. I was then married to Louisa W. Staedter. She was born October 6, 1844, at Frankford on the Oder, and came with her parents to America in 1857.

Andrew Ritter in 1876 took a trip to Philadelphia, Pa., to the Centennial Exposition. He started from Ottumwa at 7 o'clock in the morning, and landed the next evening at 6 o'clock in Philadelphia, going some of the time at the rate of 70 miles an hour. He had the honor of going through the Independence Hall and sitting in the chair which our first President, George Washington, used at his home, and also of seeing the Liberty Bell that gave the first sound for liberty. Our cousin, P. J. Ritter, and his good wife entertained him very good, and took a great deal of pains to show him everything worth seeing.

In 1888 he took a trip out West looking for a new home. After looking two weeks, he bought 160 acres near Sioux City, Iowa. That was the opening of a new field, for eight of his neighbors started a little while afterward, and all bought land from \$5 to \$8 per acre. The land in the course of fifteen years was worth from \$50 to \$80 per acre. Andrew kept his land for four years, and then sold it for double what he gave for it. Taking three more trips west, he bought 140 acres more land, which was the home place of the party that sold the land. He also sold this land and made good profit on it.

In 1893 he went to the World's Fair at Chicago, and also made two trips to Ohio, the last in the fall of 1903, in company with his brother Daniel.

In the year 1890 Andrew's health failed and the family thought best to move to the town of Hedrick, so they bought a nice home, and after moving and getting well settled his wife was taken sick and died. She lived only eleven months in her new home, and left a family of





ANDREW RITTER, and wife, LOUISA W. STAEDTER-RITTER, of Hedrick, Ia.



seven children and a heart-broken husband. The three oldest were old enough to take care of themselves. After living in Hedrick he thought it would not pay to rent the farm, so he sold all the land, taking some property in exchange. He rented the property and loaned the rest of the money at interest; but having several fires, he had considerable loss. After the twin daughters were married he concluded to give up housekeeping; he divided the household goods among his children, and is now living with them and his friends. In the past fourteen years the rheumatism and catarrh has partly destroyed his hearing, making him unfit for any business. The following children were born to them:

Frederick William, born November 21, 1866.

Henry E., born September 15, 1868; died July 21, 1870.

John Andrew, born February 28, 1871.

George Washington, born December 12, 1873.

Herman Joseph, born July 1, 1875; died June 3, 1878.

Albert, born December 20, 1877; died February 16, 1903.

Maria Catharine, born May 15, 1882.

Minnie May, born May 15, 1882.

Frank Valentine, born February 14, 1888; unmarried.

George Washington was married to Daisy Mamnette, who was born March 26, 1875. They have four children and live near Maple City, Kansas.

1. Hazel Louisa, born October 7, 1895.

2. Maudie Morine, born September 28, 1897.

3. Ralph Mamnette, born July 15, 1899, and died March 15, 1904.

4. Abner Ray, born February 26, 1902.

Albert Ritter was married to Allie Mowery, October 19, 1897. He died February 16, 1903. They had no children.

Mary Catharine was married to Lincoln Sauer, son of George Sauer, December 7, 1898. He was of Wapello County, Iowa, and was born November 14, 1876. They have three children and live in Keokuk County, near Delta.

Bernard, born October 28, 1899.

Teddy R., born July 28, 1901.

Maudie May, born July 29, 1903.

Minnie May, twin sister of Mary Catharine was married to Charles Sauer, December 7, 1898, also son of George Sauer and brother of Lincoln Sauer. They have two children. They live on a farm near Ottumwa, Iowa. The names of the children are:—

Lena Luis, born April 13, 1899.

George Andrew, born June 19, 1901.

George Sauer, father of Philip, Lincoln and George Sauer, that married into the Ritter family, is a relation of the Ritter family. His mother's name was Schreiner before marriage and born at Wattenheim of the same family as our great-grandmother Eva Schreiner. We frequently visited each other in Germany, and the writer was well acquainted with George Sauer and all his brothers and sisters when we all were very young yet.



ANDREW RITTER'S FAMILY, Hedrick, Ia.



**FREDERICK WILLIAM RITTER****Son of Andrew Ritter from Keokuk County, Iowa**

Frederick William Ritter, son of Andrew and Louisa Ritter, born November 21, 1866, in Keokuk County, Iowa, stayed at home on the farm in the same county till he was nineteen years old, when he went to Ottumwa, September 28, 1887, to learn the tinsmiths trade. He got a front room position the first week and kept it and worked in the tinshop between times for two years. On October 14, 1889, he went to the town of Hedrick, Iowa, in his old county, where he was born. On October 15, 1889, he went in the hardware business in partnership with W. M. Owen and was with him seven years in which time they bought one lot, 22 x 115 feet, on the main street next to their store room where they were doing business to give them more room. At the time of their dissolution in 1896 he bought the entire stock, building and lots. After which he built on the one lot a good substantial brick building, 22 x 80, two-story and a basement under all, equipped with elevator and modern improvements for doing hardware business. This in connection with the old store building gave him fine facilities for carrying on business. On April 1, 1898, he sold one-half interest in his business to Lafayette Dudgeon. After that the style of the firm was Ritter & Dudgeon, as it is at this date, April 13, 1905. The firm found themselves crowded for room, so they bought a lot across the alley in rear from their store, 60 x 92, with a 32 x 32 barn on one end and on the other they erected a 40 x 60 feet wareroom to take care of their bulky goods and keep them all under shelter. Mr. Dudgeon is not an active member of the firm, so F. W. Ritter has the full management of the business. They employ three steady salesmen and one lady bookkeeper and carry at this writing hardware, stoves, cooking utensils, buggies, wagons, harness, windmills, pumps, paints, glass, field fence and etc. They do all kinds of tin and pipe work and are using at this time 12,200 feet floor space for their business. In 1892 he bought four resident town lots on which he built a house in 1895 where he now lives. In 1904 he bought four adjoining lots. He has done some little traveling in his life at different times. The first little trip was to Chicago to the Great Metropolis and Hub of



the West, in the fall of 1888, the week before the election of Grover Cleveland for President of the United States. At this time he witnessed the greatest political rallies ever known or seen in Chicago. Both political parties being represented in its best dress, one in the afternoon and the other in the evening. After this he made several business trips to Chicago, St. Louis, Peoria, Rock Island, Des Moines, etc. One important trip was to the Columbian Exposition at Chicago in 1893. During this time he got well acquainted with Emma Bayer, of Cincinnati, Ohio. The greatest trip he ever made was to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he was married to Emma Bayer the 30th day of January, 1894. Emma Bayer was a widow, her maiden name was Markgraf, widow of Philip Bayer, who had one son, Chas. P. Bayer, five years old, when they were married. To them was born three children, two died in infancy and one living, George Andrew, born May 15, 1896. On January 24, 1901, he took his wife and son George and left in company with some of their friends for a trip to California, going to Kansas City over the Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad, from there over the Santa Fe Railroad which affords a great deal of fine scenery, that is quite a treat to anyone that never went over so big a scope of territory and see the great difference of country as nature formed it. They left home in the cold winter night and in only a few hours as it seemed, they landed in the summer land California where they were picking oranges. The first stop they made was at Upland where they visited some of their friends and had the pleasure of picking good ripe oranges from the trees. They have some very fine orange groves at Upland. From there they went to Los Angeles, looked over the city for a day, then went on to San Diego, their destination, where they stayed for four weeks, during which time they made a trip through Mexico. They saw the landmark that divides the United States from Mexico. From San Diego they went by steamship to Los Angeles and stayed there two weeks, then to San Francisco by steamship, stayed a few days, then came home by the way of Salt Lake City and Denver, one of the finest scenic routes in the United States. It is certainly wonderful to see nature's formations in that country. They were gone just two months on this trip. In the spring of 1903 he took a little recreation trip with a friend, C. O. Bowen, to Colorado Springs, from



FREDERICK WILLIAM RITTER, and wife, EMMA MARGRAF-RITTER,  
of Hedrick, Ia.



there to Pueblo; they enjoyed the climate, scenery and Manitou Spring water hugely.

One of the greatest pleasures they had in Colorado Springs was bicycle riding. They had each a wheel, so they could ride on the fine streets, viewing the many fine mansions and elegant public buildings. Colorado Springs is a very rich city having many millionaires. While in Colorado Springs they went through North and South Cheyenne Canyon, went to see the seven falls and Helen Hunt's grave. They had the pleasure of seeing a part of the construction of the cogwheel road that runs up Pike's Peak while they were there. There was too much snow on the Peak to go up; the road was not running at that time. It was a very fine scene to look at the Peak when it was covered with snow and the sun shone on it. Frederick William Ritter has served 2-3 year terms as a member of City Councils, and was elected for another 3 year term, March 28, 1904, at the same time he was elected a member of the school board for a three year term in the town of Hedrick, Iowa. In February, 1903, was elected a member of the Grievance Committee of the Retail Hardware Dealers' Association. In February, 1904, was elected a director of the same association. In February, 1904, was appointed a member of the Finance Committee of the Hedrick Business Men's Association.

## JOHN ANDREW RITTER

**From Keokuk County, Iowa.**

John Andrew Ritter, third son of Andrew Ritter, was born February 28, 1871, in Keokuk County, Iowa. He labored for his father on the farm to the age of nineteen, and then he went to do for himself. He labored on a farm for two years and then commenced farming on his own account. He leased his father's farm for two years.

On January 1, 1893, he was united in marriage to Miss Gertrude Florence Palmer. She was born December 3, 1874, in Keokuk County, Iowa. They lived on his father's farm for one year, and there he purchased a farm of 160 acres from her father. To this union was born a daughter, Audrey, September 3, 1896, and died October 3, 1896. After this his wife's health failed and she died March 1, 1897.

In September he went to the Omaha Exposition, and he enjoyed it very much.

On December 22, 1898, he was again united in marriage to Miss Maggie Hart, who was born September 21, 1870, in Peoria County, Ill. There was born to this union two daughters:—

Ruth Emice, born June 30, 1900.

Lillie Louise, born March 7, 1904; died March 8, 1904.

In the fall of 1902 he and his family took a trip to South Dakota, and not caring much for that country they decided to return to Iowa.

In the fall of 1903 they went to Missouri looking for better opportunities, returning to Iowa. It was the best for them, and they still live on their farm, also dealing in live stock.



WILLIAM RITTER, and wife, LOUISA S. RITTER, of Huron, South Dakota.





## BIOGRAPHY OF WILLIAM RITTER

Wilhelm Ritter was born in Breunigweiler, July 6, 1843. He came to America with his parents in 1857 to Keokuk County, Iowa. In August, 1867, he went to Cincinnati, Ohio. While there he made the acquaintance of Louisa Schwartzel, of Bridgetown, Hamilton County, Ohio, and married her on the 19th day of November, 1868. Then they went back to Keokuk County, Iowa, and settled on a farm, where he lived until April, 1902. He then removed to the farm, three miles from Huron, S. D. To this union ten children were born, five boys and five girls:—

Philip, born October 17, 1869; died October 21, 1869.

Katherine Philipina, born October 27, 1870; died December 13, 1900.

George Edward, born December 5, 1872; died January 27, 1901.

Emma, born February 28, 1875; died January 3, 1898.

Elizabeth, born August 20, 1877; died March 11, 1897.

Wilhelm, born April 18, 1880; died November 14, 1900.

Louis Jacob, born January 28, 1883; died.

Otto Fritz, born June 26, 1885.

Lucy, born November 16, 1887, living with his father.

Anna Carolina, born February 21, 1891, living with her father.

Mr. William Ritter, of Breunigweiler, had a good start in life, and was the possessor of a nice farm in Keokuk County, Iowa. He, his wife and children enjoyed good health for many years until his wife died, and then one or two of the children died shortly afterward. The disease germs of tuberculosis seemed to have permeated the house that he lived in until nearly all of the family died with the exception of himself and the two youngest children, and he concluded to leave or sell his farm and move to another part of the country.

He found a very nice farm of 320 acres three miles from Huron, South Dakota, that he purchased in 1901 and is residing there, and he and his children are enjoying good health.

## KATHARINE RITTER-KUEHLKOPF

### Daughter of John Philip Ritter

Katharine (Ritter) Kuehlkopf, daughter of John Philip Ritter, of Breunigweiler, was born March 1, 1845, came to this country with her parents and then located on a farm in Keokuk County, Iowa, where she remained with her parents until she got married. She married John Kuehlkopf in 1862. Mr. Kuehlkopf was born in Wuerttemberg in 1832, Germany. Mr. Kuehlkopf emigrated to the United States, April 25, 1857, taking a passage on the sailing vessel, being forty-seven days on the ocean. He landed in New York City and immediately proceeded westward to Ottumwa, Iowa, where he located upon a rented farm and occupied it two years. He then moved into Monroe County, where he bought eighty acres of land and lived there three years until he got married and then they remained there two years until 1862. He then sold out and, coming into Wapello County, purchased eighty acres on section five in Highland Township, which he occupied since that time. He has greatly improved the original condition of his purchase and now has a good farm with comfortable residence and all necessary outbuildings. The subject of this sketch was married in 1862 to J. K. They were the happy parents of thirteen children, as follows:—

1. Elizabeth, born March 20, 1864, became the wife of Peter Kling, of Highland Township. Peter Kling was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1861, 12th of January, he moved with his parents to Wapello County, Iowa, near Highland Centre. To them was born seven children.

1. Clara Kling, born August 19, 1885; Clara married Clarence Lynch, August 22, 1902. Clara has no children.
2. Anna Kling was born November 28, 1887.
3. Carrie Kling was born June 3, 1890.
4. Minnie Kling was born February 7, 1893.
5. John Kling was born October, 1895.
6. Evalena Kling was born July 3, 1898.
7. Frank Kling was born February 5, 1901.



JOHN KUEHLKOPF, and wife, KATHARINA RITTER-KUEHLKOPF, of Hedrick, Ia.



2. Katherine, second daughter of Katherine Ritter-Kuehlkopf was born September 7, 1866, married Philip Meier, September 26, 1889. They had six children, two died in infancy. Those living are:—

1. John Henry Meier, born August 12, 1890.
2. Jacob Meier, born December 7, 1896.
3. Charlie Meier, born December 25, 1901.
4. Harry Meier, born December 25, 1901.

3. John B. Kuehlkopf was born October 30, 1868. Unmarried, lives at Merrill, Iowa.

4. Clara Theresia Kuehlkopf, born May 1, 1870. She married Francis William Darner, March 9, 1886. They had eight children, two died in infancy. Those who are living are:—

1. Joseph Andrew Darner, born December 19, 1886.
2. Lulu J. Darner, born August, 7, 1890.
3. Philip Byron Darner, born May 20, 1895.
4. John Jennings Darner, born September 4, 1897.
5. Mamie Ellen Darner, born December 8, 1899.
6. Francis William Darner, born May 15, 1902.

Frank W. Darner and his wife are living in Ottumwa. Mr. F. W. Darner is in the business of buying and selling real estate and has been very successful.

5. Emma Kuehlkopf, born April 19, 1872. She married Christian Deuser, November 14, 1895. Christian Deuser was born May 6, 1868, in Wapello County. They live on a farm near Martinsburg. They have two children.

1. Carl Henry Deuser, born April 3, 1897.
2. John Lewis Deuser, born September 14, 1900.

6. William Kuehlkopf, born November 20, 1875. He married Nellie Florence Sheets, February 14, 1897.

Nellie Florence Sheets was born January 20, 1881. They have two children:—

1. Pansy Gladys, born November 29, 1899.
2. Lily Florence, born March 30, 1903.

They reside on a farm near Highland Centre.

7. Charles Edward Kuehlkopf was born October 18, 1879.
8. Philip Kuehlkopf was born September 19, 1882.

9. Leonard Henry Kuehlkopf was born October 3, 1884.

10. Edith Victoria Kuehlkopf was born May 25, 1889.

These last four are unmarried and live at home on the farm. Philipine and Jacob died in infancy. George Kuehlkopf was born November 9, 1877, died November 6, 1882.

J. and Catharine Kuehlkopf have ten children, twenty-one grandchildren. Mr. and Mrs. Kuehlkopf are members of the Lutheran Church, of which Mr. Kuehlkopf is a trustee.

Besides the home farm, which consists of 140 acres, Mr. Kuehlkopf has 320 acres of land elsewhere. When he came to this country he was poor in purse, but rich in energy and in determination, and he has been amply rewarded for his years of labor and frugality. He takes intelligent interest in all matters pertaining to the welfare of his country, is the friend of education and progress and takes very much interest in farming. Mr. and Mrs. Kuehlkopf took a trip to Chicago, Illinois, to the World's Fair, in 1893, where they met with their cousin P. J. Ritter and family. Then Mr. Kuehlkopf took a trip to Muscatine, Iowa, in the year of 1895. He also went to Bellefontaine, Ohio, in 1902, to see his brother Jacob Kuehlkopf. Mrs. Kuehlkopf took a trip to Nebraska, in 1888, to visit her daughter Clara and Frank Darner and friends there.



CLARA T. KUEHLKOPF-DARNER, and her husband, F. W. DARNER, Ottumwa, Ia.





## MRS. CLARA KUEHLKOPF-DARNER

### And Her Family

Mrs. Clara T. Kuehlkopf was born on a farm ten miles north of the City of Ottumwa, May 12, 1870. She spent her childhood days in the common occupations of farmer girls. During about eight months of the year, from the time she was eight until she was fifteen, she attended the "Ben Butler School" which was a mile and three-quarters away. When she was thirteen years of age she was confirmed in the German Lutheran Church. March 9, 1886, she was united in marriage to F. W. Darner, the son of a neighboring farmer. F. W. Darner was born November 13, 1862, on a farm in Muskingum County, Ohio. In 1865 his parents came to Wapello County, Iowa. They located on a farm adjoining the farm of Mr. John Kuehlkopf. F. W. Darner received his education in the district school and in Central University at Pells.

Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Darner first rented an eighty acre farm one and a half miles from Mr. Kuehlkopf's. The house on this farm was a two room "side up." In March, 1887, they went to Red Willow County in southwestern Nebraska, and bought a quarter section of land. Like most people in that western country they lived in a small sod house which had no floor. In common with other residents of the plains they used "buffalo chips" for fuel. The only music they enjoyed or had the privilege to enjoy during their stay in Nebraska was the howl of the coyotes and the rattle of the rattlesnakes.

In August of 1888 they decided to return to Iowa, which they did, and by so doing, they missed three years of the hard dry times, as the clouds refused to rain for the years 1890, 1891 and 1892 in Nebraska. In 1889 they rented an eighty acre farm about two and a half miles from Mr. Kuehlkopf's. In 1890 Mr. and Mrs. Darner moved into a log-house on an eighty acre place, eight miles northwest of Ottumwa. They so prospered in their general farming, as to be able to purchase a good eighty acre farm one mile west of Highland Centre in 1892. In 1894, having sold this place they purchased a quarter section on Village

Creek, five miles southwest of Ottumwa. Here they resided for two years, then removed to South Ottumwa to give their children the benefit of the educational advantages of that city. The first year they rented a place and then built an eight room house in which they still live.

Mr. Darner engaged in the real estate and loan business in the Baker Building, where he is still located. He has prospered in his business and is one of the Directors of the Phoenix Trust Company of Ottumwa, Iowa.

The following children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Darner:—

Joseph A., born December 19, 1886.

Judson M., born April 2, 1889; died October 18, 1889.

Lulu J., born August 7, 1890.

Alvin, born January 15, 1893; died November 28, 1896.

Philip B., born May 20, 1895.

John J., born September 4, 1897.

Mamie E., born December 8, 1899.

Frank W., born May 15, 1902.



FREDERICK RITTER, and his wife, CATHARINE PHOEBE HOLZHAUSER-RITTER, near Hedrick, Keokuk Co., Ia.



## AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF FREDERICK RITTER

### Son of John Philip Ritter of Breunigweiler

When about ten years of age, Frederick Ritter left the little town of Breunigweiler, in Germany, and came to America, with my father, which took us about two months, landing in Keokuk County, Iowa. My father bought eighty acres of land on which place he lived the balance of his days. I had gone to school in Germany several years and kept at the head of my class. After coming to America, I went to a little log school-house that stood one-quarter of a mile east of my father's house, there I went to the English school and finished my education. I stayed at home and worked for my father on his farm until I was twenty-four years of age. My father took sick and was called to live in a land beyond. January 22, 1871, the time of his death, he made a will, appointing me as executor and administrator which I accepted, and filled the place honorably and upright. Then I commenced to farm for myself, my mother having her home with me. We lived together seventeen years, when, 1888, she was also called to live in the land beyond. On September 28, 1871, I was married to Catharine Phoebe Holzhauser, who was born in Compentine Township, Wapello County, Iowa. We have been living on the same place ever since we were married, which is the home place of my parents, where I came to with my father in 1857, and where I have been living ever since we came to America, and farming to pretty good success.

In the year 1893, I went to Chicago to the World's Fair. There I saw lots of things I had never seen before and visited my cousin Philip J. Ritter and wife, who were staying at Chicago at that time, exhibiting their conserved fruits and received the premium on their goods. I enjoyed that visit and shall never forget the good time we had together. While there at Chicago, I met several of my relatives whom I had never met before. I have been trying to live a Christian life, but I have, like many other people, done many things that I should not have done and left undone things which I should have done, but by the grace of God, I will try to make Heaven my home.

Frederick Ritter, son of John Philip Ritter, of Breunigweiler, born September 5, 1846, married Catharine Phoebe Holzhauser, who was born September 13, 1853. They were married September 28, 1871. They had eight children:—

1. Maria Elizabeth, born June 24, 1872. She married Frank Berg. They had one child named Maggie Matilda. Maria E. had been married two years when she died.

2. Catharine M., born February 3, 1874. She married March 11, 1896, Philip Sauer, who was born May 21, 1871. They had three children:—

1. John Frederick Sauer, born April 15, 1897.

2. Mary Lulu Sauer, born July 7, 1899.

3. Clara Phoebe Sauer, born January 30, 1902.

3. Philip J. Ritter, born June 23, 1876. He married Elisabeth Haber, of Ascoluso, Iowa. She was born February 24, 1874. They had two children born to them:—

1. Frank Frederick, born November 7, 1900; died in 1904.

2. Frederick Henry who died in infancy.

4. Maria Christina, born March 9, 1897. She married Andrew Schaefer, of Fairfield. They had one child, Katharine Louisa. They live near Fairfield, Iowa.

5. Frederick Henry, born October 14, 1882, lives at home: unmarried.

6. Phoebe Theresia, born July 27, 1885, lives at home: unmarried.

7. Clara Sophia, born October 16, 1888, lives at home: unmarried.

8. Lulu Junie, born October 29, 1892.

Frederick and Catharine Phoebe Ritter had living, on January 1, 1904, seven children and five grandchildren.



**THERESIA HOLZHAUSER, *nee* RITTER**

**Youngest Daughter of John Philip Ritter from Breunigweiler**

Theresia, youngest daughter of John Philip Ritter, born October 1, 1848, at Brenigweiler, married Adolph W. Holzhauser, October 5, 1871. He is engaged in general farming and stockraising in Compe-tine Township, Wapello County, Iowa, on a farm of 160 acres of well-improved land in section 7, Township 73, Range 12. Adolph was born in Havre, France, March 25, 1849, while his parents were emigrating to America, and is a son of George P. and Mary Phoebe (Deuser) Holzhauser. George P. Holzhauser, the father of our subject, was born in Germany, emigrating to the United States in 1849. He settled in Louisville, Ky., where he remained two years, after which he removed to Iowa, where his death occurred at the age of 54. He married Mary Phoebe Deuser, a native of Germany, and they had four children, namely:—

Christian, who died on shipboard, while enroute to America.

Adolph W., the subject of the sketch.

Phoebe, born in 1848, married Frederick Ritter and is living in Keokuk County.

John P., born in 1856, married Louisa Miller and is living in Com-petine Township, Keokuk County, Iowa.

Adolph W. Holzhauser, the subject of this sketch, came to the United States with his parents, and removed with them from Louisville, Ky., to Wapello County, Iowa. He has lived on his present farm for a number of years, and in addition to farming has been engaged in stockraising. He has met with good success in all his undertakings, and is one of progressive farmers of the county. Nine children have resulted from this union:—

1. Mary C., born July 17, 1872, married Adam Greenig, of Hancock County, Ill. They live on a farm of eighty acres of well-improved land, is engaged in farming and stockraising. Three children were born to them.

Emma, born February 25, 1874, married Amos Crile, of Jefferson County, Iowa, but now of Wapello. They live on a farm of 160 acres of fair improvements. He is engaged in farming and stockraising. One child was born to this union:—

Orrie was born March 22, 1899.

2. Lizzie, born February 4, 1875, married Joseph Greiner and lives in Terry, South Dakota, and is engaged in the drug business.

3. Clara, born July 8, 1876, died in infancy.

4. George P., born May 28, 1877, unmarried and is engaged in farming.

5. John P., born September 29, 1878, unmarried and lives at home.

6. Joseph A., born January 11, 1880, died June 20, 1899.

7. Charles W., born August 4, 1883, lives in South Dakota.

8. William D., born July 6, 1886. Deceased.

9. Margaretta F., born July 8, 1889.

All the family belong to the Lutheran Church and they have many warm friends. Politically Adolf W. Holzhauser is a Democrat.



The five Cousins assembled at Ottumwa, Ia., June, 1904.  
DANIEL RITTER, PHILIP J. RITTER,  
PHILIP J. RITTER, Cincinnati; FRED. RITTER, ANDREW RITTER.

Note: VIII. (2), above:

CAROLINE CUNNINGHAM BED-  
DELL THOMAS obtained an  
M.D. degree in 1930 at  
Johns Hopkins University,  
Baltimore, Md., with high  
honors. She has been on  
their medical staff ever  
since as one of their  
outstanding heart spe-  
cialists. She is now a  
full professor of car-  
diology at Johns Hopkins,  
and has received numer-  
ous honors and honorary  
degrees. (Ref.: Eleanor  
Bedell Burt, 12/27/74.)

## A Meditation on the Philosophy of Life.

Nature's works are wonderful, and are seen in all things, whether it is a plant, a shrub, a tree, an insect or an animal—in fact, in all that lives. The greatest of all things on Earth is found in the laws of Nature for the continuance of its kind or species and its self-preservation.

The senses of all animal creation by instinct are alert and on the outlook for any danger to itself or progeny or offspring. This law of self-preservation is not only set within against danger from an enemy or mishap, but also for the preservation of their existence, to provide their daily food, and a home to sleep and rest in, not for a day or week, but for an indefinite time.

This instinct, or law of nature, is also found in man with the idea of self-preservation, of daily food, a home and a place to rest in. In man comes the motive to the one that is not so fortunate as to possess a home, to provide and become the possessor of a home and also of a family. Man must have a motive in life, an object to work for or without he might be wandering aimless around in this world. This one motive brings ambition and energy in motion and puts physical and mental strength to work to obtain the object. Here is where the struggle for existence begins, and every sense in man's head, every nerve and muscle in his body is put to work. He perseveres and he conquers. He has the home and the food. His first ambition has been satisfied. To be sure it is a very plain humble home such as people in his circumstances can afford to live in.

The motive that made him ambitious and energetic and frugal is still active within. It has not stopped its work. It aims higher. It gets ideals. It has seen some other man's house and home that is much more comfortable than his, has more modern improvements, offers better enjoyments to life. To live in such a house requires a better income, more of the world's goods, more of its real estate. The first motive with its ambition and energy and frugality aims higher now, and the powers that won the first battle in life also won the second. This struggle was not monotonous, with hard work as is done by a slave, nor was it a pleasure—it was done with an ambition to aim higher, a power that exerts itself to do its best and without a strain, it was a free will with an object to attain.

In the foregoing work, there was another factor that helped to make this part, for the preservation of life, a success. It was the help

of a robust, healthy, frugal wife, with good common sense to assist and make the home a happy one. Such a wife is the sunshine of the home. Her loving smiling face can produce only happiness to her surroundings and her family. After the hours of daily occupation, man will rest happy in his household on the fruits of his ambitions in earlier life, knowing that the family is provided for in rainy days.

By a clear conception, an honest purpose, a cheerful disposition, and a free will power, the first law of Nature, to work for an existence can be accomplished with ease, if the qualities exist in a healthy body. Self-preservation, the first law of Nature, has been shown by the foregoing.

The next is the second or principal law of Nature to continue the species or kind in all life. Of plant, or animal, or human, by a wise law the Creator of all things has made them male and female in vegetables as well as in animal life. All are only one link in a long chain. Such is its nature that during the time of blooming the male furnishes or fertilizes the blossom, thus giving the germ to the seed of the future plant to reproduce its kind. Few know or suspect that the silk hanging out of the top of an ear of corn are tubes that carry the pollen of the male corn to every grain of corn on the cob, thus fertilizing the germ to reproduce corn, showing how wonderful are the works and philosophy of nature. To produce good harvest of grain or vegetables the agriculturist gets seeds from some other, often from a far away country to plant on his land, because in a very few years, his plants have become accustomed to his soil and the climate and degenerate and produce only inferior crops.

It is a known fact among agriculturists that plant life degenerates if planted from the same seed on the same soil. This is also a fact in the continuation of animal life, a fact also well known to farmers and stock raisers. They also send to far off countries to get new blood into their stock, thereby improving the stock. People wonder when they see Shetland pony horses or the Chinkatique Island horses that they are not much larger than a goat. Why are they so small? The answer is by stockbreeders backward breeding of the same stock and blood. To prevent such conditions, the people of this country and even the governments of Europe are watching the stockraising as a branch of national economy.

The breeding of race horses has been made a science. Two minutes and forty seconds a mile was considered fast trotting years ago. At the present time, horses have trotted one mile in less than two minutes, showing the difference in breeding. The question that would arise in our mind is what has been done in the reproducing of the human race for higher standards of the physical or mental man among the masses



of people. The answer is that among the great middle class of people, very little.

The great middle class constitutes the merchant, the mechanic, the artisan, every worker and producer of something. This great middle class is the bone and sinew and pith of any great nation. In this great United States we are not guided or guarded by any law or example in the reproduction of this great nation. It is all done by sentiment called love. In this sentiment, in many cases, there seems to be a great lack of judgment in the pairing of the male and female, and often they are not matched at all. It is ridiculous to see a woman nearly six feet in height and a husband five feet, or a husband six and a half feet in height and the woman four and a half. What stockbreeder would match his stock in such a manner. Why does the man or woman not fall in love with some one their equal in size and equal physically and mentally. A bad feature also is that the question of health is ignored, also that of ancestry. These are the vital questions that should be thought of. Is he or she of healthy, of long lived parents or ancestry? Has he or she good health and good sense?

One more great hindrance to improve the human race is the intermarrying of blood relations, one generation after another, until the whole community becomes degenerate in size, physically and mentally.

If it is a good thing to renew your seed of wheat, rye, corn and potatoes, and improve your stock by getting new blood into it and assist nature to produce only the best, why not do the same with your people, regenerate your race, let your aims be high not low. The motive is a very worthy one. Let the wisdom of the old guide the young early in life. Let your children read and reflect that to marry a healthy, robust, sensible man or woman would be equal to securing a fortune. It shall mean a happy healthy existence during a lifetime, the ideal that all the world is seeking, and very many find it, and to them that find it Paradise is not lost. These are the meditations on the philosophy of life, its preservation and continuance. An old saying is that "only the fittest shall survive" of our descendants.

To have good people in this world it is necessary to have good children; to have good children they must have good mothers and good fathers. The mother is the first teacher of the child. The child learns from the mother almost from the time of its birth. This teaching and learning so early in life lasts many through a whole lifetime and existence.

To have good mothers you must have good daughters. The daughter should be taught and educated with the view to her future position and happiness in life. Good daughters make good mothers, and the mother's teachings and influences upon her children in most



people accompany them through their lifetime. Where is there anything to be found that impresses itself stronger in our young lives than the fervent profound prayer of the mother with her children learning them to say their first prayers, and why should a daughter who has been taught to become such a mother throw herself away by marrying some man not worthy of such a wife?

The name of the word love has been much abused. Love is an affinity between the feminine and the masculine. A sentiment often is a madness or lunacy that is as one great writer says: "Love is blind for it sees not with the eyes but with the mind." Love, another great writer says, "is a smoke by lovers' sighs. What is it else but madness most discreet and choking gall, a perservance sweet." If this was not so, as this great writer said, why would a daughter worthy of the best man throw herself away unto a worthless fellow, because he had just been coming her way, when by instinct of nature this affinity was doing its work. To improve the conditions have acquaintanceship, widen the circle of your acquaintance, aim high, look for persons that will be suitable partners for life among those that are worthy of your qualities. A philosopher's answer to the question of what was the best means of winning affection of the lady was opportunity. Such opportunities can only be widened by enlarging your circle of friends and friendship.

What has been said here about good mothers and good daughters will also apply to having good sons, good husbands and good fathers. Such fathers and mothers that were inspired to have good children will fill the link in the long chain for the continuation of their race to a better perfection than many others of the human family that did not receive their early training in life imbued with the same motive by their parents.

Good fathers and mothers make good citizens of the community, the State and nation where they live and belong. This is of the greatest importance in a free country, where the citizens are supposed to vote for the best men to represent them to govern this State and nation.

## The Parent's Aim

It is of the first importance in undertaking any enterprise to form a correct idea of the end to be accomplished. Every occupation in life has some distinct purpose, and only as it is thoroughly kept in view can the efforts put forth prove successful. Drifting passively along with the current has been the cause of many a fatal wreck of life's objects, while, had the flood been stemmed and the bark resolutely steered towards some given port, success and happiness would have

crowned the voyage. While this truth is recognized in most of life's avocations there are some which especially need its enforcement, and perhaps none more than that which is embraced in the parental relation. While men and women are taught and trained by years of patient instruction to become good laborers in all the bread winning pursuits of life, how little preparation is afforded to enable them to become good fathers and mothers, and how few there are who, upon entering on this relation, have any definite idea of what is to be done. Too often people drift into these responsibilities, content to produce the practices of their ancestors, and quite destitute of that deep insight into human nature and its needs which should guide them in the task assumed.

What, then, is the aim that ought to actuate every parent; the work that he has to accomplish? Most persons will admit, in theory at least, that it is to strengthen the perceptions and cultivate the tastes; to awaken the energies and employ the faculties; to develop the genius of character latent in the child into the well-proportioned and harmonious nature of a noble man or woman. Yet, is this the central idea that practically governs the parental relation? Does not experience show that the authority of the parent as it is commonly upheld among us, grows far more out of the love of dominion than out of the love of those who govern? Are not the promotion of the parents' convenience and comfort and the fostering of his or her own vanity in the beauty, adornment or talents of the child more the object, in the generality of cases, than a disinterested desire to promote the child's best interests?

Does not the love of power often lie at the root of severity? Does not selfishness exact sacrifices and the desire for ease induce neglect? These motives so cunningly hide themselves from view that frequently the parent, who is thus actuated, believes his child's welfare to be uppermost in his mind, and the only spring of his actions.

In past ages of barbarism, the subordination of children and the despotic rule of the parent was carried to their extreme limit. Not only were children held as slaves by their father, but their very lives were in his power, while filial disobedience ranked next to murder as a crime. Gradually, as man advanced in intelligence, and as other rights have been acknowledged, the personal liberty of children has increased and non-coercive systems of education have taken the place of the rigid and unlimited authority of former days. There are many who lament this change and sigh for the good old times when children looked up with awe to those who ruled them with despotic sway. It does, indeed, appear at times, when we see the dangers that surround the young, and the sad results that so often follow the relaxed discipline of the present day, as if we had, in our haste to establish freedom, sacrificed much of

the moral vigor that attended a sterner rule. Yet we believe the progress of true virtue to be only compatible with that of freedom, rightly used. Restraint, while it may regulate the external conduct, and is often a necessary instrument for temporary use, can never be regarded as a purifying and elevating agent. It is only as one wills to do right, that he can be called virtuous, and he who influences the will, thus touching the spring of all action, must be a far more potent agent than he who merely regulates the conduct. It is here that the main duty of the parent lies. If the work of the parental relation could be condensed into a single sentence, if its ends could be gathered into a single focus it would be "to prepare the child for freedom." It is because this preparation is so little understood, and so seldom even attempted, that the relaxation of restraint often produce disastrous results. The parent who accords to the child increasing freedom gradually relaxes his own vigorous efforts, whereas they should be renewed with double energy.

It is a far more difficult work to establish self-control in a child than to control him; to enable him to govern himself than govern him. Liberty is not license—it is the highest law—the comprehension of which may well employ every faculty. Restraint itself may be a useful servant in this work, but it should be regarded as only a temporary means which will of itself drop away when its object is gained—a prop, as it were, to support the tender plant until it has strength to stand alone.

It is character, rather than conduct, that needs transformation, motives and feelings rather than deeds, that require purifying. We see in a child, for example, palpable tokens of selfishness, which result from an unsympathetic nature. We may, in individual instances, by authority or fear, compel him to give up his own way, and yield to the wishes of others. But have we touched the root of evil, or done anything in fact save, perhaps, to arouse a spirit of opposition. What is needed is to form a character that shall spontaneously produce a greater generosity of conduct. The feeble sympathy needs to be strengthened, the generous emotions to be aroused, the affections to be brought into exercise. This is positive, not negative work, developing active goodness, rather than restraining evil. The same law holds good with every fault to be repressed and every virtue to be cherished. Such work is both endowing the child with freedom in the present, and preparing it for freedom in the future; and is as far removed from rigorous severity on the one hand, as from negligent indulgence on the other. It gives a deeper significance to the parental relation than any system of despotic authority.

## Children

Perhaps in nothing greater discrepancy of character is manifest than in the notions entertained concerning children. There are those who secretly regard them as little better than necessary nuisances—their noise distracts, their inquisitiveness bores, their eager enthusiasm wearies, their little faults and blunders provoke. Such people look with astonishment on those who seem to find pleasure in this restless seething part of humanity and could they reconstruct the world, one of the first changes they would inaugurate would be to have all the inhabitants enter it ready grown up. We are happy to believe, however, that this class is a small and decreasing one. Few can resist the animating and cheering influence of fresh, ardent and impetuous childhood; who find no impulse of admiration at its free and bounding vitality; who have no smile of sympathy with its exultant joys, or tear of pity for its acute, though brief sorrows. A far larger number see great beauty and find much amusement in children, but regard them mainly as lovely playthings—dolls for grown-up people to dress and fondle in hours of leisure, but to be set aside when the serious business of life demands attention.

It is well for the children that humanity contains something higher for them than either of these. The love whose birth in the heart of the parent is simultaneous with the child's birth into the world is its great safeguard. It transforms the care, labor and self-denial that would have been a burden, into a joyful duty; it lifts the little one from being either an irksome trouble or an amusing toy, into its true place as a human being, having unbounded capacities to be developed and limitless powers to be unfolded. No one, into whom some portion of this true love mingled with reverence is not infused, is fit to have any charge of children, either in their education or social life.

Yet parents are not without danger of thinking their love to be all-sufficing for the welfare of their children.

It is the foundation on which they must build, but the superstructure is yet to be reared. There is no duty of life for which there is less accountability to public opinion or less interference from others than that of parental training and culture. Yet there is none which requires more judgment and watchfulness. There must be appreciation of the greatness of the task, of the importance of the responsibility; there must be faith in the capacity that is to be developed; there must be patient and arduous self-discipline, that no unworthy example refute the teachings of the lips. The child is not wax to be molded, or stone to be hewn into whatever shape you prefer, it is a living, thinking, feeling, rational being, with energies to be aroused, powers to be

awakened, moral sense to be cultivated, judgment to be guided. It is a free agent, with individuality and will that must be recognized and respected. The object, therefore, should be, not to stamp our own minds upon the young, but to animate theirs; not to make them to think our thoughts, but to quicken their own; not to impart knowledge so much as to inspire the love of truth; not to impose arbitrary rules or beliefs, but to enlighten the conscience and kindle aspiration.

There are few better inheritances than a happy childhood. It is of itself a preparation for the duties and trials of life, a fund on which we may draw in long years to come. When children are continually thwarted in their plans and opposed in their desires, when their efforts meet with no appreciation, their eager hopes and confidences, with no response, and their fears and trials with no consolation, they will grow up to believe happiness to be a myth and momentary gratification the only substitute. But where wise and loving parents combine to make a sunny home for their little ones, where they respect their feelings, sympathize in their pleasures, soothe their troubles, and lead them gently into paths of virtue, they give them not only a real present happiness, but also an ideal one, which in after life, they will pursue and overtake. A bright conception of home joys, and the appreciation of their simple sources, are the best foundations. The natural cravings of childhood are not for wealth or its appliances, they can be happy with frugal fare and simple habits, if they may only enjoy love, sympathy and appreciation. Their physical, mental and moral needs demand no enormous outlay of money, but they do demand respectful attention, careful thought and judicious plans. The happiest child is not he who is tricked out in finery, sated with luxuries, and spoiled with indulgence; but he, who, enjoying with the zest of young life the merry sports of childhood, and the society of carefully chosen companions, yet turns with pleasure to his home as the dearest spot and to his parents as his warmest and closest friends.

## Relationship

One of the good effects of holiday times, especially such as promote family gatherings, is to impress the mind with a more vivid sense of the value of relationships. No one who has lately had a share in the Christmas joys of a family can fail to be impressed anew with the happiness which can flow from kindred. Whether it be the children who have been fascinated by the books and toys and games and frolics which their parents and elder relatives have procured for them, or the parents themselves, not less eager and excited, who have grown merry in the children's glee; whether it be the absent ones, who have rushed



joyfully back to the dear old home, or those who have extended to them the heartiest of welcomes, or even the stranger who, with sympathizing heart has looked upon the joy of others, all have received a new proof of the happiness which may spring from the ties of relationship. True, this happiness is not a periodical gush, only to be seen at holiday seasons; it is a steady and continual stream, which flows day by day, and year by year, for all who will avail themselves of it. Yet these special occasions bring out more vividly the joys that we sometimes let slip for want of thought, and sometimes accept as a matter of course, without appreciating.

It is indeed to be deplored that these pleasures are not so universal or so intense as they might be. There are families who seem to grow apart instead of growing together; brothers and sisters who draw their happiness from any source rather than each other; parents who through selfishness lose the affection of their children, and children who recklessly slight and throw away a parent's love.

Then, too, more distant relationships are apt to be dropped out of sight instead of receiving that attention and culture which would render them sources of mutual pleasure. Relations at a distance cease to correspond or to visit, and so forget one another, or if thrown together small quarrels and jealousies are allowed to creep in and embitter the intercourse.

Among the causes for this state of things is a very dangerous and common mistake made as to the duties which relationships involve. The pleasurable affections which cluster around them are so prominent, that we sometimes forget that there is any other bond to hold us to them. Thus, when from any cause the affection and the pleasure decrease, the relationship is too often allowed to sink into a mere nominal thing. As long as we are pleasantly excited by the intercourse, we accept its obligations, but if our feelings change we repudiate them. Never was there a greater or more fatal mistake than this. It is one which, should it obtain universal credence, would sap the foundations of family, social and political life and ruin the welfare of any nation. For the State is built upon the family, and the family is upheld by a mutual sense of obligation between its members. Joy and gladness are the flowers and the fruit of well-preserved relationships, but not the root. That lies deeper down in the very constitution of humanity. We find ourselves actually in many of these relations. We are children, brothers or sisters, uncles or aunts, and many of us assume the additional responsibilities of husband or wife and parent. This state of things is a real one, present to us affecting us every moment of our lives; we are all in it and in it we must abide. Whatever we may do, or not do, these ties with their several duties will continue. They can

never be abrogated, annulled or set aside. We may slight them, neglect them, despise them, if we will, but we can never abolish them. We may dislike the responsibility that they bring, but we can never escape it. We may fall in performing the duties they involve, but the duties remain as urgent as ever.

Some may think that by presenting so forcibly this side of the question, we shall crush out the tender and beautiful affections which are the crown of all relationship, but this is no more true than by watering and nourishing the roots of a plant we shall nip and spoil its delicate buds. What we wish to enforce is, that as healthful growth of the root is necessary to the full fruition of the plant, so the cheerful acceptance of obligations and the performance of its consequent duties is necessary to any permanent or satisfactory happiness.

Let this truth sink deep into the heart and pervade the life of an individual, and he will never complain of the lack of pleasurable affections in his relationships. Joy will flow in upon him from every such channel, and it will be a joy that neither change nor separation will disturb. But let him neglect these obligations and value his kindred only for the pleasure he can extract from them and the pleasure itself will be only transient and unsatisfactory. Mr. Maurice, in a lecture on the conscience, speaking of the danger of this course, says, "The necessity for firm and distinct language becomes more evident to us the older we grow, and the more we notice the habits and doctrines which are prevalent among us. The reverence for parents, the sanctity of the marriage vow, the permanence of friendship are all in peril from the confusion between likings and affections" (for as we translate his meaning, between the whims and impulsive fancies of the moment, and the deep, pure love which only blesses those who recognize and fulfill their mutual obligations). "Those who resolutely draw a distinction between them will have their reward. They will find that the conscience protests, not against the fervency, but against the coldness, feebleness and uncertainty of our affections."

### Choice of Occupation

There is so much continually said and written about the importance of choosing wisely an occupation in life, but few appreciate the real difficulties of making this choice. Parents and advisers of youth, with the sincerest desire of assisting them to discover the work for which they are best fitted, find that in many, if not the majority of cases, they meet with small success. Often the youth possessing perhaps good or even superior general abilities shows no special taste or aptitude in any given direction. There are, perhaps, several depart-



ments of labor, as far as present appearances go, he might fill with equal chances of success. Or, if he seems attracted to one in particular, it is difficult to judge whether it is a true indication of fitness or a mere fancy, that will melt before the difficulties and drudgery it involves. It takes a wiser judgment and a keener discrimination than most of us possess to solve this problem. Then again, frequently the power of choice is confined to very narrow limits, circumstances render many avenues impossible while affording strong inducements in other directions. So that, except in marked cases, where talent and taste are so decided as to overpower all hindrances, it is not strange that young men and women seem rather to float into their lifework from the force of wind and tide, than to elect their course and steer decisively upon it.

This is, perhaps, not to be so much regretted as may at first appear. The various occupations of life, while requiring varied talent, have yet such a strong family likeness that their adherents may well shake hands as token of their close relationship in a common purpose. The progress and happiness of mankind is the one meaning which underlies and pervades every honest employment. If this be recognized at the outset it will tend to dignify and equalize all industries. In this respect they differ but little. Whether we look at agriculture or mechanics, at commerce or the professions, at art or literature, we see the aim to be the welfare of humanity. Not that each one of the toilers in these different departments has this end distinctly and consciously in view, but that his work actually produces this result in proportion to the excellence and faithfulness of its performance. It signifies far less to any one in what special way he is contributing to his end, than that he really does so, and if he but puts himself in sympathy with his object and keep it in sight, it will go far towards exalting his work and enlarging his own breadth of motive.

In another way, also, do the different occupations of life bear a close affinity. While calling for numerous and differing powers for their best performance, they all alike demand intelligence and labor. There is often a great and fatal mistake made here. It is commonly supposed that the chief desideratum of the mechanical arts, all others into which manual work enters, is labor, while that of commerce, literature and professional life is intelligence—at any rate, that the minimum of mind will suffice for the former, while the minimum of industry will suffice for the latter. This is not so. More of the mental powers of humanity have gone into the arts that develop the resources of the earth than in any other direction. The intellect that has learned to draw sustenance from the soil, to work up matter into the countless forms of usefulness and beauty, to control the elements and make the

forces of nature contribute to our welfare, is in no way inferior to that which utters its thought in the poem, the statue or the painting. If this truth could be impressed upon the young it might do something to dispel the prejudice which indisposes so many to enter the various fields of manual employment. Handwork, in all its branches, is loudly calling to-day for intelligence to guide it, for thought to make it efficient, for culture to give it skill. The labor that offers itself without these, sad to say, is plentiful enough, but is always at a discount, always inefficient, always seeking and never sought. No greater boon could be given to society than a corps of intelligent thoughtful, well educated young people, ready to unite their mental power with habits of industry, their discipline of mind with discipline of hand, and devote them all to the trades and mechanic arts, which open so many avenues for ability and skill.

Equally fallacious is it to imagine that there are any employments which can be successfully prosecuted without labor. Those who look with envy on the lawyer, the statesman, the scientist, the orator, the poet, or the artist, and imagine that they can win success and fame merely by the play of thought and imagination are grievously mistaken. Not one of these or kindred pursuits can be worthily followed without an amount of toil and drudgery, of which those who stand afar off never dream. Patient and plodding industry, hard and often tiring efforts must be added to mental power or talent, or even genius, if these so-called higher walks of life are to be firmly trodden. For the lack of this foundation stone, many a seemingly noble edifice of natural ability and splendid gifts has crumbled to useless dust. And when a youth of mediocre powers deliberately selects one of these occupations, in the hope of avoiding hard work, rigid economy and self-denial, he has made the most fatal mistake of his life and one that, if not speedily corrected, must entail upon him ruin and disgrace.

Labor without intelligence, depresses, degrades and fails. Intelligence without labor evaporates, is lost and equally fails. Thus it is of less importance to success what special branch of human industry is undertaken, than whether it is pursued with all the mental and physical energies of the nature. Let each one honor his occupation by studying out its history, its progress, its aim, its brightest examples and its mission to the world and to himself. He who does this and crowns it by intelligence and faithful industry is the true and noble worker, whatever be his sphere of labor.

## Life, What We Make It

While the young are eagerly surmising what life is to bring to them, and the old are quietly pondering what it has brought to them, few realize to how large an extent life is just what they themselves make it. It is a book, the pages of which are turned one by one, not merely to be read, but to show us ever new and shifting scenes and also to reflect our own image.

The external world may be supposed to present similar views to every one. Certainly we cannot change by looking its mountains into valleys, or its cities into plains. Yet, perhaps, no two people, looking at the same scene, see it exactly alike. One gazing upon a landscape, sees exquisite grace and beauty in the diversity of hill and dale, lake or stream, lit up, it may be, by sunset glories. Another sees in it the promise of rich harvests and plentiful returns. Another regards it solely with a view to the facilities it offers for a new railroad; while yet another, with dull or pre-occupied mind, gazes without consciously seeing anything at all. The scene is to each one what he makes it—the reflection of his own mind. The cheerful and the melancholy man look upon the very same objects; to one, they assume a bright and roseate hue full of joy in the present, and hope for the future; while to the other they suggest only weariness and disappointment.

Still more emphatically is this the case in the social world. The opinion men hold of society is largely a reflection of their own characters, and their influence goes far towards making society actually conform to those opinions. The selfish and grasping man is always imagining those with whom he deals to be selfish. He excuses his own meanness on the ground that he must guard against the meanness of others; and his excuse has just this foundation that his own character naturally diffuses itself among those with whom he deals.

Every disposition exerts a magnetic attraction for its like; and the unjust man will meet with injustice, the rude with rudeness, the cold with coldness, and the proud and jealous with pride and jealousy. On the other hand, the just and true, the generous and kind, the gentle and loving draw to themselves the same qualities in others, and thus to them also is social life what they make it. No one can enter into the presence of a pure and good man without having the better parts of his nature aroused and his desire for improvement quickened. The opinions expressed of society, as a whole, are a tolerably fair criterion of the character of the one who holds them. It is the man of unflinching integrity who has the most faith in the general honesty of the community—a faith not shaken by the occasional experience he meets to the reverse. It is the unscrupulous and slippery man who suspects

roguery in every quarter and ridicules the very idea of disinterestedness. He who complains that the world is hollow and heartless unconsciously confesses his own lack of sympathy; while he who believes that people, as a whole, are kindly and humane, is certain to have the milk of human kindness in his own nature.

The conditions and surroundings of life are also largely what we make them. This is the case, first of all, through our direct influence. Prosperity and adversity are often the simple effects of conduct. Industry, thrift, skill, discretion, principle, underlie the one; idleness, extravagance, self-indulgence and folly, the other. As a general thing, we reap that which we have sown. But where it is not so, where circumstances over which we have no control come in the form of trials or joys, even these are greatly modified by the spirit in which they are received. Who has not seen poverty or sickness or bereavement borne so heroically and cheerfully that the afflicted one seemed rather an object of envy than of compassion? On the other hand, who has not seen one with every outward advantage that earth has to bestow, rendering himself and others miserable by fretful complaints of troubles too petty to deserve a moment's notice?

The faithful endeavor to do right, and to bear quietly what must be borne, is of itself a fruitful source of happiness and serenity; while a murmuring and discontented spirit may poison the richest blessings and turn them into bitter evils.

No one should underrate the inevitable sorrows of life, nor deny to them the sympathy and loving aid which should ever be extended to them; but permanent misery cannot be regarded with very much respect. It certainly speaks of grave defects in character, of faults that need pruning away, of feeble qualities that need stimulating. Life is largely what we make it, and whatever may be its clouds and storms they will be chased away at length by the clear sunshine of a strong and noble character. "Fill thy heart with goodness and thou wilt find that the world is full of good."

### Strength of Will To Do Right

While the error of a few is that overstrength of mere will which we call obstinacy or self-will, the error of the vast multitude is *feebleness of will*. The bodies of most controls their minds. How many eat where reason would say abstain, or drink that which steals away the sense! How many are too feeble of purpose to lay aside an interesting book or pursuit at the hour when it infringes on other duties! What hours most waste in profitless reading! Indeed there is a fascination and tyranny about the present, no matter what—company, passion or pleasure—feelings that we are all ashamed of afterwards.

The ancient moralists felt this as much as we do. Seneca says, in language quite as strong as that of St. Paul, that he sees the right and admires it, and the wrong and hates, while yet practices it. Many persons seem to think it enough to admit all this without attempting to overcome it. In fact, to be weak of will, amiable and easily turned, they think a sort of Christian virtue. Yet it is one of the most radical vices. For all character is determined by the will, which is, therefore, essential to all virtue. The glory of every human being is to have a strong will, which need not be self-willed, but bowed ever reverently to truth and justice and eternal law, and the supreme Law-giver. But there must be a vital strength of will to choose the right.

How to obtain this is the question. One clue is the observation that our strength is not the same on all subjects nor in all circumstances and associations. Weakness or strength of bodily health has much to do with this. Exercise and repose affect it. An overtaken nervous system will often be weak and irresolute, when half an hour's vigorous exercise or a sharp walk in the open air will renew it. The hour of the day will have much influence. On first rising in the morning the resolution is clear, comprehensive and strong, while at night it is often feeble.

Hence the most successful men generally plan out the day early, and make their mark, while the will is vigorous and undistracted. Sleep often restores this faculty. Habit has still more to do with it. Every success makes a future one in the same matter more easy and natural, while every instance of being subdued by circumstances makes every similar temptation proportionably powerful. Association has much to do with it. In the company of those we respect we are easily led.

He, therefore, who would rule his own spirit and be strong, must attend to these conditions. Habits that secure the most perfect health are hence most favorable to virtue. Sound sleep, vigorous exercise, proper food, fresh air, thus become Christian duties, to be secured at almost any cost. The formation of habits such as shall secure the victory to all good choices, and the defeat of evil allurements will often render the rest of the struggle easy, or the resolute choice of suitable company, and the rejection of that known to be enslaving, may settle the whole question.

But there is one habit which more than any other, before the business and confusion of the day be entered upon, will strengthen the wisdom and the will—that is, the practice of forecasting the whole difficulties, dangers and plan of the day devoutly in communion with the heavenly Father. They that wait upon the Lord will renew their strength. As the moulting bird recovers youth and renewed energy



from the process, so has man in all ages been found to do from real communion with the Father of Spirits. The power of vigorous will is thus most effectually increased. Deam Trench has thrown this thought into a most beautiful little poem, lately much quoted, though given more at length in the Hymn of the Ages:—

“Lord, what a change within us one short hour  
Spent in thy presence can avail to make!  
What heavy burdens from our bosoms take!  
What parched grounds refresh us with a shower!  
We kneel, and all around us seems to lower;  
We rise, and all the distant and the near  
Stand forth in sunny outline, brave and clear:—  
We kneel, how weak! We rise, how full of power!  
Why, therefore, should we do ourselves this wrong,  
Or others, that we are not always strong—  
That we are ever, ever borne with care—  
That we should ever weak or heartless be,  
Anxious or troubled, when with us is prayer,  
And joy and strength and courage are with Thee?

### Natural or Moral Law

The most permanent, the most pervading and the grandest fact in all nature is that everything is governed by eternal and immutable laws. Nothing can resist the power, nothing can alter the precision with which effect everywhere follows cause in exact proportion, and no human arrangement that overlooks the constant working of these laws can ever hope for the shadow of success. All education that is worth the name is but the elucidation of these laws, and all self-culture is but the effort to put ourselves into harmony with them. Nothing more distinctly marks the progress of mankind than the fullness with which this fact is recognized. Slowly and gradually has its truth dawned upon the human mind as regards all physical nature, and what was once attributed to chance, or to the direct interference of some angry or revengeful Deity, as the storm or the earthquake, is now ascribed to the unfailing process of natural and beneficent law as its only true source.

Even now, however, we do not all have an unshaken faith that this government extends equally over ourselves as over external nature; that the laws which govern man's spiritual nature are as steadfast and unwavering as those which control his physical system; that what is thoughtlessly called fortune or fate, is inevitably bound to motives and character, by laws as inflexible as those which decide the upheaval

of the tides or the circling of the planets. We believe firmly that according to the quality of the seed and the soil, and the assiduous cultivation of the plant, will be the beauty of the flower, and the richness of the fruit: but we hesitate to apply the same rule to the delicate garden of the human heart. Yet the law is as powerful and undeviating in the one case as in the other. As surely as in nature the force must exceed the resistance if any effect is to be produced, so surely in our moral nature must energy exceed obstacle, and moral principle be greater than temptation, if heroism or virtue are to flourish. The law of gravitation, which equally governs the minutest snow flake and the rushing planets is no more certain in its operation than that by which the lightest thought or emotion influences character, and the simplest deed involves eternal results.

We readily admit the evident absurdity of disregarding what we call natural laws, but we do not recognize the same element in disobedience to our moral sense. He who should ignore the law of gravitation, who should attempt to breathe fire or water as if they were air, or to pass through rocks as if they had no power of resistance, would excite a smile of derision, or pity for his imbecility. But the disregard of the laws which govern our moral nature produces no such feeling. He who disobeys his conscience, who violates the principles of justice, honor and integrity and stifles the promptings of benevolence, may incur our serious condemnation, but scarcely our contempt. We say he does wrong, but we forget to say he is irrational. Yet surely the moral laws are as firm and undeviating as any other, and the result of their disobedience as certain and as detrimental; therefore to disregard them is at least as conclusive proof of folly as to disregard the laws which govern the elements. When we fully embrace this philosophy, when all wrong-doing includes the element of absurdity in our eyes, a long step will have been taken in the moral and intellectual progress of the race. Moral imbeciles are far more numerous than those mentally weak, and will be so until we learn how futile is the contention between inclination and duty; between our lower and higher natures; between right and wrong. Whenever we choose pleasure and reject principle; whenever we yield to inclination and sacrifice duty; whenever we prefer selfish gratification to large hearted benevolence, we are ourselves the greatest sufferers. He who cheats his neighbor deprives him of his rightful possessions, but by the same act he defrauds himself of what is incomparably more valuable, his honor, integrity and virtue. He who oppresses the poor and binds heavy burdens on the weak, is more cruel to himself than to those he afflicts, and burdens his own conscience with heavier weights. He who defames another injures his reputation, but in so doing he blunts his



own moral sense, which is of far more significance. No injury is so great as the injury of character, and that we do not inflict on others, but upon ourselves with every wrong-doing.

If this great moral law which pervades humanity is inflexible in its punishments for disobedience, it is friendly and generous to all who put themselves into harmony with it. Just as we may gather life and strength and pleasure from the elements that would destroy us if we disregarded their laws, so the moral forces within and around us are the chief sources of our highest joys and noblest elevations, if we but work with them instead of warring against them. Every worthy impulse cherished, every excellence of character cultivated, every denial made of a low desire for a higher attainment, every impure motive conquered, every noble aspiration breathed, every generous deed accomplished, will pour their richest rewards into the heart, and stamp their best effects upon the character of him who thus earnestly strives. No effort for a good cause, made from a pure motive, can ever fail; though the result we looked for may disappoint our hopes, the beneficent effects upon our own inner nature are as certain as that of the rain upon a thirsty land.

It is only as we realize that this great moral law is eternal, immutable, and yet thoroughly friendly and beneficent; it is only as we study its operations and put ourselves entirely into harmony with it that we can ever hope to attain to what is possible for us, either in beauty of character, power of good to others, or a pure and elevated happiness; and only when such lessons are as earnestly impressed upon the young as those we now give them in scholastic lore or wordly wisdom, can we be said to have begun any adequate system of education.

### Cultivating the Desires

Among the many ruts that people get into, and out of which it is so hard for them to emerge, is the habit of getting very narrow and limited, through intense desires. There is a strong impulse at the present time in favor of breadth. Large and comprehensive views of things in general are found to afford the best basis for excellence in specialties. Opinions that are handed down by tradition and carefully kept from the wholesome fresh air of investigation and opposition are less trusted now than formerly. The faculties of man are found to be manifold and all deserving of development. Knowledge aims to be broad, at least in its foundations; and the particular structure to be raised upon it is expected to be proportionately solid and valuable.

This widening process has had full employment, so far in enlarging thought and action. It has not yet penetrated to the desires.

They are generally supposed to be strong enough and varied enough in themselves to do without any special cultivation, and the most that is urged in reference to them is the necessity of restraining them, when they pass their proper bounds. It is true that they are usually very strong, that they form our characters, influence our actions, determine our lives. Yet it is just because they are so powerful factors that they need the most careful and judicious education. To restrain them is but a small part of the work; they need far oftener to be fostered and nourished than to be repressed and the chief reason why some one desire so frequently takes possession of a man and makes a wreck of him is that so many others are lying dormant and feeble within him.

There is no more striking example of this than the desire for wealth. At first it is but the natural and wholesome wish for the necessities and comforts of life and the power of creating happiness in a thousand forms for self and others. It is often pursued, however, with such devotion and eagerness that at length it crowds out the other desires of life and even swallows up the very ends for which it was first maintained.

The desire for spending the money which costs so large a part of life diminishes in force, and perhaps becomes extinct for want of intelligent cultivation and exercise, and the man wealthy in gold but poor in life either delegates the whole task of disposing of it to his family, or piles it up on unmeaning heaps simply to be rescattered after his death. To add to it absorbs all his time, thought and energy; but how to use it has become to him a lost art and one that fails to call forth within him a single pleasurable emotion.

Now this condition is arrived at, not so much by the indulgence of a single desire as by the neglect and failure of all the rest. It has become a habit with him to crave and pursue money until he knows no other joy. It is as if the man who is running a race should become so infatuated with running that he should continue to run past the goal and care nothing for the price that he started out to win; or, as if the man who proposed to become a carpenter should become so interested in procuring tools that he should devote his life to the accumulation of them without putting them to any use. Originally there were hopes and longings in his mind, pictures of happiness which he was to enjoy himself and to create for others, and for which he would gladly toil to procure the means. But they have faded from his mind, because he would not pause to gratify them when it was in his power to do so; they have died of inanition, and no desire is left to him but to continue to accumulate the means to ends for which he has ceased to care.

Nothing can more forcibly show the need of nourishing and fostering the good and wholesome desires of our nature. Where the grand purposes that money can subserve are kept in view and realized and enjoyed from time to time, when a happy and well-ordered home is secured, when children are trained, educated and developed, when advantages and opportunities are offered to those who need them, when wholesome reforms are aided, worthy enterprises assisted, the city or town improved and enriched, and society made better and happier by the growing prosperity of the individual, then his wealth is a tenfold blessing. But that this may be so, his desires must be continually cherished by actively ministering to them. He must devote at least as much care and thought upon the way to use his money as upon the way to get it.

Desires can only be kept alive by being gratified from time to time and as they are all right and reasonable, if kept in due proportion to each other, it is far more essential that we should wisely cultivate all, than that we should strenuously deny any one. Indeed, the only true way of preventing a single desire from absorbing our nature and ruining our usefulness, is to bring others into constant play. Nature sets us a good example in this respect. The child's desire for play is periodically checked by his desire for food and sleep; his craving for knowledge is kept within bounds by his craving for physical exercise. But presently some one strong desire being continually indulged, other weaker ones are crowded out, and it is the work of the wise parent to guard against this injustice and to see to it that the natural desires of the child are respected and balanced one against another, so that none shall fall into decay and none obtain a monopoly. Some, indeed, are imperative, and seem full grown, others are in the germ, and need the tenderest nurture, but none must be neglected and then none will be tyrannical. M. Littre, a French philosopher, says: "The chief use of education is to multiply motives for action, for to have many faculties is to have many impulses; to have many impulses, is to be accessible to many motives, is to be in communication with many influences, instead of being bound in unreasoning constancy to one."

### The Best of the Kind

One important cause of the disappointments, vexations and adversities of life is that people are not, as a whole, sufficiently anxious that what they give and what they receive shall be the best of the kind. Thus education, labor, modes of life, habits of thought, principles of action are all liable to take a lower tone, and to be pursued in a poorer way than they need be. Take the regulation of expenses for example:

it is commonly supposed that men at least want everything they buy to be the best of its kind, and that the only reason they do not always have it so, is that they cannot afford it. Yet it is by no means true that the best things are always the most costly. They are rather those things which most perfectly fulfill the purposes for which they were intended. The purpose of food for instance, is the nutrition of the body. Whatever articles of diet are proved to contribute most fully to the healthy action of all the physical functions will be undoubtedly the best of the kind; yet men pay far more for dainties which can lay claim to no such merit.

So in dress; the best of the kind is that which wears best and which secures convenience and comfort, and satisfies good taste. All these ends can be gained at a moderate cost, yet people gladly pay double, or even ten times the amount for costumes that answer no such purpose, and, therefore, cannot be the best of their kind. Our dwellings, with all their appurtenances, are intended for shelter, privacy, safety, convenience, family life and social pleasure. The best of the kind completely supply these needs, yet they are not necessarily the most expensive, nor are these ends always first in view in their selection. Thus it is not generally because people cannot afford it that they do not, in their purchases, procure the best of the kind, but rather because they are not intelligent enough, or wise enough, to know in what the best consists.

If they fail, however often, to secure that which is best of its kind, they fail equally to give out from within the best that is in them. As a nation, Americans are hard workers, but many things prevent their work from being of the best. Some sacrifice quality to quantity. They fancy that by hurrying and driving, and devoting every waking moment to business, they are doing their best. But the truth is that the best work is never reached in this way. It demands a freshness and vigor that can only be gained by seasonable rest and recreation; a calmness of mind that is incompatible with constant hurry; a thoroughness in detail that cannot be secured without system and deliberation. The strained effort to do too much is one cause of the large amount of slipshod, inefficient work that all deplore, yet accept. No one can give of his best until he has learned what to lay aside, as well as what to do.

Others fail to give their best by attempting to do what is beyond them. They might have succeeded well, and done the world good service in one direction, but scorning this they are doing poor work, which neither benefits others nor reflects honor upon themselves in some other line. Thus a first rate builder who is needed in the community is sacrificed to make a third rate architect, who is compara-

tively valueless. Men who might have made their mark as mechanics become inferior business men, or others who have a talent for commercial pursuits spoil their value by rushing into professions or politics. Just as one seeking health does not inquire what degree of intensity in heat or cold he can possibly endure and live, but rather seeks for the most favorable climate in which his physical functions can do their best work, so in choosing life employment men should inquire, not what branch they can possibly push themselves into by straining every nerve, but in which one they can do the best work and develop their powers in the best manner. In discussing building materials Ruskin says: "If you cannot afford marble, use stone, but from the best bed; and if not stone, brick, but the best bricks, preferring always what is good of a lower order of work or material to what is bad of a higher, for this is not only the way to improve every kind of work, and to put every kind of material to better use, but it is more honest and unpretending, and is in harmony with other just, upright and manly principles." The same advice is sound in all the affairs of life. Let both demand and supply unite in requiring and furnishing the best of everything of its kind, then both progress and happiness will be based on the surest foundations.

### The Advantage of Disadvantages

Nothing shows so completely the combative energy of human nature and its conquering power over all difficulties as the fact that, whatever temporary evils and disadvantages beset a true man, they all end in waking up a disposition that finally overcomes them, subsiding them, and so making them blessings. The man who has given the greatest proofs of personal physical strength in this country (Dr. Winship) was one of the weakest naturally, and began to cultivate his powers at first, he says, to be able to thrash, if necessary, a dangerous classmate, fond of bullying those weaker. A thousand higher and better motives for cultivating personal strength might perhaps be found, but this one was good and sufficient. Every man ought, if possible, to make himself strong enough to defend and protect himself from any aggressor. We do not say he ought always to exercise the power, but the consciousness of having cultivated power will always be useful.

It is so much more with mental strength than with physical. Knowledge is power, and although the difference between various men is very great in this respect, yet the consciousness of mastering the difficulties of ignorance is a matter of still greater importance. The wise man's eyes are in his head, but the fool walketh in darkness. It has often been remarked that great mental discoveries and movements



come in clusters. That is to say, where one masters a great difficulty in arts or science, it excites hope and confidence. It starts others, and thus shows that there is always a great amount of latent power in the mind to make other discoveries and exertions, when but the incitements needed draw them from their resting places. It is hard to tell what difficulties are insurmountable by the mind of man. He has contrived to weigh the mountains and the solid globe. Our telescopes take the measure of the stars and our microscopes display the wonders of minutest forms of insect life. Our men of science read backwards the history of our globe for millions of years, trace its condensation from the nebulous mists, and under the tropics find the scratches and proofs of glaciers hundreds, if not thousands, of feet thick, and lasting on the same spot for long ages.

“Things difficult entice,” said Cowper, and there is not the slightest perturbation of a planet, or eccentricity of a comet, not a spot in the sun, or a change in the moon, but all must be accounted for before the subject is dropped. And a thousand new and unexpected discoveries spring up in conquering one difficulty.

All this is still more true in the world of morals. Obstructions, temptations, all difficulties in the path of virtue seem to wake up in a man a proportionably greater moral strength of resistance and conquest. Goodness always proves the strongest at last and the overcoming power. All troubles, dangers, afflictions and mistakes that lead to any of these conquests are good, both for the individual and for the race: for the mistake dies out and the suffering ceases, but the register of the conquest makes all future victories easier and more certain. Difficulties are blessings in disguise. The poverty that excites to industry is one, and the felt want of knowledge which leads to effort and self-culture, and the regret for an error that leads to higher habits and reforms. Indeed, the very alternations of riches and poverty, and all other such changes, are like those of summer and winter, day and night, wet seasons and dry, to the physical world. All tend to the expansion and improvement of man, by calling into exercise new powers or recuperating old ones. Now, that by writing and printing we can multiply and preserve the records of our experience, dangers and methods of ultimate triumph, the progress of the race becomes in each age more and more rapid. It is greater now in a year than formerly in a century. As long as there is progress, however slow, in the right direction, there is hope, faith, ultimate success and rejoicing. It is only with the relinquishment of effort—that is, the death of humanity—that there is despair. But while man remains man, a disadvantage fought against becomes ultimately an advantage.

Keep good company or none. Never be idle.

If your hands are not usefully employed, attend to the cultivation of your mind.

Live up to your engagements. Keep your own secrets if you have any.

When you speak to a person, look him in the face.

Good company and good conversation are the very sinews of virtue.

Good character is above all things else.

Ever live (misfortunes excepted) within your income.

Make no haste to be rich if you would prosper.

Never play at any game of chance.

Earn money before you spend it.

Never run into debt unless you see a way to get out again.

Never borrow if you can possibly avoid it.

Do not marry until you are able to support a wife.

Be just before you are generous.

Be temperate in all things.

Save when you are young to spend when you are old.

Our acts make or mar us. We are the children of our own deeds.

Despise not any man, and do not spurn anything, for there is no man that hath not his place.

Any man may do a casual act of good nature, but a continuation of them shows it is a part of their temperament.

Innocent fun is as good as any. The best medicine is not always bitter, nor is a thing wicked solely because it is agreeable.

A wise man of Greece being asked what anyone could gain by telling falsehoods, replied at once, "Not to be believed, even when he tells the truth."

Vanity refuses all wholesome food and lives entirely upon the poison of flattery, upon which it thrives luxuriantly.

A life of honor and of worth has no eternity on earth—'tis but a name, and yet its glory far exceeds that base and sensual life which leads to want and shame.

Disputes between true friends and true lovers are of no consequence. The only dangerous quarrels are those between people who did not quite understand each other.

The clouds of earth are not those which sweep across the sun, but those which rise out of unhappy hearts and evil lives.

Cheerfulness is a matter which depends fully as much on the state of things within as the state of things without and around us.

Try to frequent the company of your betters in books and life. That is the most wholesome society.



Every day is a little life, and our whole life is but a day repeated. Therefore, live every day as if it would be the last.

As to trouble, who expects to find cherries without stones, or roses without thorns.

Reflect upon your present blessings, of which every man has many; not upon your past misfortunes, of which all men have some.

Whatever the world may say there are some mortal sorrows, and our lives ebb away less through our blood than through our tears.

Nothing increases reverence for others as a great sorrow for one's self. It teaches one the depths of human nature. In happiness we are shallow and deem others so.

Little things sometimes cause trouble. A single spark may fire a whole building; a word may turn a kind friend into a bitter enemy, and a tongue may set a whole church in commotion.

Except as we master and hold our own in the world, it informs us that we are of little account—one of millions, and our burdens and sorrows are treated as sickly sentimentalities.

Happy is the man who eats only for hunger, drinks only for thirst; who stands on his legs, and lives according to reason, and not according to fashion; who provides for whatever is necessary and useful and expends nothing for ostentation and pomp.

# Hygienics

The object of writing this book was first to obtain a family history so that future generations and descendants would know something about their ancestry. This having been accomplished, it is important that the history be continued by the preservation of our descendants and their descendants by the adoption by them of good hygienic or health rules, to have the future generation to appreciate the writer's book. For the benefit of future generations I will write a short article on hygienics or health. Another object for doing this also is that this book shall not be a book to be laid away or never to be looked into only in case of birth, marriages, or death.

I want to make this a book for reference, for health and for the enjoyment of life, and shall prove the principal part of energy necessary to retain good health and enjoyment.

To enjoy life, to be healthy there is nothing more necessary than pure air and pure water. Pure air we should have at all times, for without pure air we would not live. This air we should have at night-time as well as in the daytime, therefore, our sleeping rooms should be well ventilated. The windows should be kept open top and bottom in warm weather, and in cold weather open at the bottom according to the out door temperature. In moderate weather three or four inches would be sufficient, and in very cold weather when there is a high pressure or very cold out of doors, the window should be shut down as far as possible, as enough air is forced through the crevices around the windows.

The air we inhale is charged with oxygen or life-giving substances. The air we exhale from our lungs is charged with carbon, and is poisonous to human life. It is very heavy and lies low, therefore, to let air in the sleeping rooms properly, the window should be kept up from the bottom to let the heavy air escape. The window lowered from the top will leave out the hot air of the room but not the heavy air, as it will not rise to that height.

To know this is very important in case of any one being sick and lying in this room. To have pure air and avoid a draft may be had by placing a board at the bottom inside of the opening and on the inside of the window frame when you can get the pure air without having it blow right across the room. In very severe cold weather where you have a sick person in the room and you dare not open any windows at all, or perhaps the door in case of contagion, a very good way of purifying the air of the room that the sick person occupies is in taking towels and dipping them in water that has enough salt in it to give it

a good salty taste and hanging them around the room, or having lime water, or chloride of lime water, into which to dip the towels and hang around the room. They will absorb the impure air and keep the chamber pure if renewed from time to time. The same can also be done in hot weather for cooling the air, as the evaporation of water is a well-known cooling process.

In countries where the climate is very hot and the people have no opportunity of getting cold water, they have earthen jars that hold several gallons of water. They are porous, and the water coming through the pores of these earthen jars trickle down the side and drop to the ground. If this process of evaporation of the water contained in these jars is kept up, the water is about the same temperature as spring water.

Another important factor is the position of people when they sleep. It is much better to get pure air when lying in bed with the head in the middle of the room, and not have the head stuck in the end or the corner of the room where there cannot be any free circulation of air.

It is also important that pure air should exist in all parts of our homes and houses. One thing that is mostly overlooked is the ventilation of cellars. Cellars are receptacles in many instances for storing all kinds of matter, also the family supply of potatoes, vegetables, milk, cheese and other things. It is, therefore, necessary to have the pure air in the cellar as well as any other part of the house. Cellars should have walls whitewashed at least once a year. The floor if not cemented should be saturated with lime water made from a thin white-wash, as that will penetrate the ground and keep the cellar pure. Houses that are heated from furnaces located in the cellar should draw their supply of fresh air from the out-door air. Ventilation of the house should always be the first consideration, as that contributes largely to health, comfort and enjoyment of life. There should be some ventilation in the top of houses to leave out hot and bad odors and bad air.

The blood in the human body is its nourishment. It nourishes the muscles, the brain and the whole body if it is in a healthy condition. The blood has to pass once every hour night and day through the lungs to be purified by the atmospheric air. When the blood enters the lungs it is black. When the air has acted upon it in the lungs it goes back to nourish the body in a light red color, it having received from the air the oxygen, iron and other substances necessary to life. If this process of purifying the blood by air through the lungs is stopped, and the blood goes back not purified a person will not live long, as the blood has become carbonized. This shows the necessity of inhaling

pure air, and to do it right persons should adopt the habit of expanding the lungs several times a day so that every part of the lungs is in working order to purify the blood for the nourishment of the body.

### Respiration—Breathing

Respiration, human: In the ordinary respiration of a man sixteen or seventeen cubic inches of atmospheric air pass into the lungs twenty times a minute or a cubic foot every five and one-quarter minutes; 274 cubic feet in twenty-four hours.

The lungs hold 274 cubic feet in twenty-four hours. During the act of inspiration, the lungs have been found to be the coldest part of the body.

We breath twenty times in one minute, or 1200 times in one hour if in healthy condition. The heart in a healthy grown person beats on an average 72 times a minute, or 4320 times in one hour. In cases of typhoid and other fevers the heartbeats as counted by the pulse from 80 to as high as 130. There are also persons whose pulse beats only from 50 to 60 times a minute. These are usually fleshy people of a lymphatic nature. The average temperature or heat of the human body is  $98\frac{1}{2}$  degrees Fahrenheit. In case of fevers the temperature of the human body rises to from 100 to 102 and 104, and sometimes, but not often, to 106 degrees. The quickest to find out if anyone is sick and whether there is any serious trouble is by the use of the clinic thermometer. Put it under the tongue or arm of the patient, and if the thermometer indicates a much higher temperature than  $98\frac{1}{2}$ , you should send for a doctor at once; if the thermometer does not go higher than  $98\frac{1}{2}$  there is nothing serious the matter with the patient.

Sunlight is one of the purifiers of air and blood, and helps our existence by heat. During the expansion of air heated quantities of warm air pass along the dust producing earth, leaving a vacuum in the atmosphere that is filled up by the quantity of cold air, from higher regions moving in opposite directions that rushes through to fill up the vacant space left by the warm air. This is an everyday occurrence in the atmospheric air.

Sunlight is health producing and creates growth in plant life as well as in animals and in the human body; therefore, persons should exercise themselves in the out-of-door air and in sunlight by walking and by riding every day. Sunlight is also a purifier of air in rooms and houses for the same reason that as the air expands into warm air, it will renew the air in almost every corner of rooms by having the house exposed to sunlight. This is called rotation of air. There is another expansion of air called colories. This is used for producing

power or energy in machinery, and is one of the simplest machines for household or for any purpose of running light machinery.

Sunlight is beneficial to sick persons if they will take walks in sunlight, except when excessively hot weather prevails. The inhalation of warm expanded air into the lungs acts as a tonic and strengthener. Persons should walk with their chest thrown out, and at a moderate speed, and should also exercise the lungs by inhaling and exhaling thereby producing expansion and contraction of lungs during this walk.

Pure water is a necessity of life. Two-thirds of the weight of persons in good health consists of water. It can be, therefore, readily understood what a large factor water is to our existence, and also how important it is to have this water pure. By pure water we understand that water which is free of substances that are injurious to health. Spring waters are considered pure waters, yet there are many spring waters that contain mineral substances injurious to health, and other spring waters that contain substances that are held in solution that are of great benefit to health, and persons in ill-health often travel many miles to obtain such of these spring waters as are suited to their case of disease.

The water of springs where its qualities are not known should be tested by chemical analysis to find out that they are not contaminated by any injurious substances.

Water in the country taken from wells dug in the ground should be used with great care and examined from time to time as to its purity and pollution. At many farm houses the water in the wells that is used for the family and for their domestic animals has become impure and polluted unknowingly to the persons using it from cess-pools and other places around the farm yard, and very often through rodents working holes through the ground so that substances lying on top of the soil are washed into it by rains.

Wells should be examined or cleaned out at least once a year, or every two years, so that the water supply of the premises is kept in good condition.

The supply of water in large and small cities has become a very serious question in this century. Nearly all cities have outgrown their water supply, and it has been quite a serious problem with many of the authorities to solve this question. Many of our cities take their supply of water from the rivers and streams nearby. The water in these rivers has become polluted from industrial establishments along its banks, and even in the valleys of streams by the discharge of sewerage, water of dye-houses and various other things, where large quantities of water have been used for washing purposes and discharged into



the stream of water, and on the supposition that water will purify itself in the course of its flow in the river, cities and communities take their drinking water from these rivers. Waters purify themselves where there is two opposite elements in the water that come together as with water coming from coal mines that is filled with sulfuric acid coming together with water containing lime in solution. In this case the lime will neutralize the sulfuric acid and the sulfuric acid the lime, thereby producing a better water than the water containing lime in solution before.

But this purifying process of lime and sulfuric acid does not destroy the disease germs that these streams are polluted with from the sewerage and other substances that flow into it. Water to be used as drinking water from such an unreliable water supply should be sterilized, but not left on the range in the tea-kettle all night and then be used for tea or coffee for breakfast. Water left heating all night is not fit for use, for all the oxygen and life substances in the water have been destroyed.

In reservoirs of water that supply cities with water, the water begets a foul taste and smell, because it has become stagnant and impure by the presence in the water of a growth of animal and vegetable life, called *agea*. Such water can be purified readily by dissolving sulphate of copper and adding it to the water in the reservoir. The quantity is so infinitely small that its presence in the water is perfectly harmless. The City of Butte in Montana purifies its water by adding one pound of sulphate of copper to 100,000 pounds of water, or say one pound in 12,500 gallons or 250 barrels, counting fifty gallons to the barrel. The wholesale price of sulphate of copper is only about five cents a pound. It was found that this chemical destroyed the growth of *agea* in the water. The *agea* absorbed the sulphate of copper and flowed to the top like a thin scum and flowed over the dam, or overflow, down the stream, leaving the water perfectly clear and tasteless and also free of the chemical. Upon analysis of the water no trace of the sulphate could be found. This simple and cheap process can also be applied with the same result to stagnant waters on the farm, to reservoirs of rain water, rain water barrels and cisterns, and act as a preventive of malaria and typhoid fever.

Water is a nourishment and stimulant when, after boiling, it is cooled off and enough salt added to make it palatable. One or two glasses taken soon after rising in the morning will be found nourishing and healthful. It also becomes an excellent stimulant in cases of extreme weakness and debility, and an excellent remedy for the ordinary disorders of the stomach. This remedy is always ready and at hand.



Water is also of great use in case of rheumatism, neuralgia, or other severe pains throughout the body by making a hot pack, that is to say by dipping blankets into hot water and rolling the patient into these blankets and wrap a dry one on the outside. Put the patient to bed, cover up with plenty of bed-clothes and leave there for about an hour. This will prove an excellent remedy when many other things fail. Water is used cold in much the same way as the warm pack. This is done by taking one or two sheets together and dipping them into cold water. Wrap the patient up in these and let him remain so for about five minutes, then take off and rub the body off with a dry towel. This produces a good circulation of blood throughout the body and is a hardener for the prevention of colds. This is a part of the so-called Kneipp cure.

### Water for Baths

There are many ways to bathe—in rivers, in the ocean, but most at home in the bath tub, and this, the last, is the part I will speak of. Bathing water should be as pure and as clean as for drinking. There is just as much danger from contagious diseases in bathing in impure water as there is in drinking it. Every bath-room should have a thermometer to tell the temperature of the room, and also the temperature of the water before taking the bath. The temperature of the blood of the human body is  $98\frac{1}{2}$  degrees F. The warm bath should not be warmer than blood heat as that is weakening. The best temperature for the warm bath is 90 degrees. A person remaining in this for fifteen minutes will find the water to have risen to blood heat. The so-called cold bath should also be tested with a thermometer. Cold water varies from 32 to 75 degrees, and for the cold bath the water should be not less than 75 degrees, even for the so-called plunge, as there is 23 degrees of temperature between that and blood heat.

The water in the bath-tub can be changed by the addition of salt or other substances which certain conditions of the person requires. Every person should take a bath at least once a week if at all convenient to do so. If not convenient to do so a cold or warm sponge bath taken by rubbing the body all over with a sponge or towel will keep a person in perfect health.

There is still one other way of using water as a curative. Where persons have taken cold one of the quickest ways of obtaining relief is by going to bed and sweating it out. Many persons make the excuse that they cannot sweat. A good way to bring the perspiration out on them is to make some boiling water, pour into a bucket, stand it on the floor in front of the bed and have the person lying in bed lean over. Hang a blanket, quilt or something heavy over their head and let them

open their mouth and inhale this warm steam that rises from the water in the bucket. In winter time the temperature should be kept warm. This steam can be made very agreeable by putting some aromatic herbs, such as german chamomile or the flowers that drop from hay, into this bucket and keep stirring the water. This should be kept up about fifteen minutes. By that time the person will be well under way of perspiring all over the body. Then they should be covered up, head, face and all, until they have had a free perspiring all over the body. They should then be rubbed down under cover, also excellent remedy for cases of neuralgia or swelling of the head, face, toothache and many other things.

As there is in all cases where persons have taken cold more or less fever present, by putting the pores of the skin into activity through this perspiration, it will throw off the fever and make a cure without the use of any other remedy. Before taking this steam bath, nature can be assisted to produce perspiration by hot drinks, such as hot water with a little salt in it, or teas of any kind, but the hot water is preferable.

## Food

An old saying that we cannot live on air alone is true. We need some solid substances to live on. This we call food. Food for human beings differs in the different periods of life. The food of children or babies I will not enter into, as the difference of conceiving what is good for babies is best left for the mothers and nurses.

Half-grown persons should have good nourishing substantial food that will nourish the body while it is making its growth. Many young persons die before maturity from want of proper nourishment. That is to say, they may have had sufficient nourishment of solids and liquids, but not of the right quality. The food of half-grown persons should consist of such nourishment as contains the substances that make bone and sinew, flesh and blood of the right consistency. These substances are best or easiest found in cereals, such as wheat, rye, barley, corn, rice and also other cereals, as most of these substances if ground whole contain limes and phosphates, two of the most necessary substances for the nourishment of the body. This along with milk, eggs and other albumenoids like meat should be the diet of young persons while attaining their growth. Parents should avoid giving their children any kinds of rich food such as pastry, cakes and sweetmeats. These substances will retard the body from making its proper growth as they will interfere with the assimilation of solid substantial food taken at the same time, that is, they will not get the nourishment out of the solid foods that they should get out of them.

## Food for Adults

As there are no two persons who look alike, there are no two persons whose organs of digestion work alike. There are rarely two persons whose nervous disposition are alike, and this has an effect on digestion. The occupation of people differs so very greatly that it would be hard to say what kind of food would suit all and we can only give generalities. Persons doing heavy, laborious, out-of-door work need heavy nourishing food, while a person doing inside work or light work and does not get the exercise that one does doing out-door work, needs an entirely different diet or food. The person doing out-of-door work, especially in the winter, should have food containing large amounts of nitrogen, or heat-giving substances, such as beef, pork, peas, beans and other legumes. The person working inside should have foods which consist of substances that do not have nitrogen in them. Their meat should consist of lamb, chicken and suitable vegetables. This latter part or kind of food is also recommended to elderly people beyond the age of fifty years. Old people should avoid eating all food containing too much nitrogen like those recommended for people doing hard out-of-door work.

## Digestive Organs

I will include in my hygienic and physiological talk a few hints and prescriptions from which the writer has derived a great deal of benefit. Disordered stomachs are common every day occurrences. A preventive is the best cure. Eat your meals as warm as possible; eat slowly and chew all your food well, so that the saliva of the mouth will mix with it, as that is the first or the beginning of the digestion. Eat a plate of warm soup or drink hot coffee, tea or hot water with a little salt and milk in it. The last is the best of the three drinks. Do not drink ice water, iced tea, or ice cold milk with your meals. By eating your food dry, the saliva will flow more freely than with wet or soft food, and the digestion from the admixture of the saliva will be much better, and the food will more readily assimilate and nourish the body.

Take your main or principal meal of heavy food in the middle of the day; have a light breakfast and supper and of things that are easily digested. Do not eat cucumber salads, only very few people can digest it. Do not eat any article of food that your stomach objects to, or that you know does not agree with you. If, after eating, persons feel bloated and uncomfortable, they can relieve themselves of this feeling by taking a pinch of bicarbonate of soda, or the so-called baking soda, or soda mint tablets.

If a person is taken with cramps or colic in the stomach they will be relieved by taking fifteen to twenty drops of Squibbs' Diarrhoea and Cholera Mixture in about two tablespoonfuls of water, every half hour until relieved from the pains, then stop. In severe cases like cholera morbus, where there is vomiting and purging, the dose should be increased to a teaspoonful in about four tablespoonfuls of water, and should be used until relieved. The formula for Squibbs' Mixture will be found in the United States Dispensary, page 1513, 1896 edition. If it cannot be procured, write to the firm of Squibbs Chemical Co. of Brooklyn, N. Y., and they will be able to tell you where to obtain it near your home.

#### SQUIBBS' DIARRHOEA MIXTURE

(Tincture of Opium Compound, Dr. E. R. Squibb.)

Take of Tincture of Opium 1 fluid ounce,  
 Tincture of Capsicum 1 fluid ounce.  
 Spirit of Camphor 1 fluid ounce.  
 Chloroform (drops) 180 minims.  
 Alcohol to make up to 5 fluid ounces. **Mix.**

In case the Squibbs' Mixture does not stop the vomiting, the use of imported apollinaris water, or if that cannot be had, take about a quarter of a teaspoonful of bi-carbonate of soda or baking soda, and mix with a tumbler of water. Take half a tumblerful of this water and mix with one half tumbler of milk. This should be luke warm, not any other way. If the patient vomits this it is best to continue to give this soda water and milk until the great strain arising from the vomiting or trying to vomit, from an empty stomach, has been alleviated. It is sometimes found that it is necessary to take three or four doses before any of it is retained by the stomach and the vomiting stopped.

One of the great sufferings is from the stomach working wrong. It is filled up with air or gas and becomes inflated, pressing against the diaphragm or the chest, causing a feeling of fullness, hard breathing and pain in the chest and often in the heart. I give here a prescription of a medicine that one, or two doses will cure every time. The rest of the medicine can be kept for future use, as it will keep several years if properly corked. Page 1514, 272 U. S. Dispensary.

Prescription for curing and preventing the gathering of gases or air in the stomach, sometimes called Wind Colic.

Aromatic Spirits of Ammonia one (1) dram.  
 Soda Bicarbonate (baking soda) one (1) dram.  
 Peppermint Water three (3) ounces.

To be well mixed. Shake the bottle before taking it.

Dose. — For a grown person : one (1) teaspoonful in water every half hour until relieved. Two or three doses make a cure, then stop taking, and keep medicine for future use.

Another very good stomach remedy for nervous dyspepsia or nervous feeling in the stomach, is relieved by one or two doses of the following prescription:—

Soda Bicarbonate (baking soda) one (1) dram.

Cherry Laurel Water one (1) dram.

Peppermint Water three (3) ounces.

Syrup Rubi Aromatic two (2) drams.

To make four (4) ounces. Shake the bottle before using.

Dose.—One tablespoonful every two hours. Stop taking after third dose, if relieved.

This acts also as a quieting medicine in case of grief from loss of a friend by death or other losses. It also prevents and relieves hysteria and epilepsy.

One of the main causes for disease also arises from indigestion and constipation. Persons' diet should be arranged to constitute such eatables that keeps their system regular. Persons who eat two, three or four times a day should know that after the system has absorbed the nourishment that was in this food, the waste material that contains no more nourishment should be gotten out of their body. If this waste material is not gotten rid of every day there will be trouble, the person becoming sick. If, however, nature will not help itself and have a discharge every day, it becomes necessary to resort to remedies that will relieve and clean out the body.

For some persons take a tablespoonful of Rochelle salts and divide it into two tumblers of water and drink them on rising in the morning. In one hour's time, in most cases, it will have done its work and washed out the body. Again, you can take phosphate of sodium dissolved in warm water and take about a little more than the Rochelle salts in the same amount of water.

One other good remedy that will act very agreeably, as you do not feel its action at all, is a tablet or pill of aloin and cascara. The action of one or two of these tablets will move a person's bowels without affecting the stomach. This remedy does not work until after it gets down into the larger bowels. Of great assistant is a quart of lukewarm water in a fountain syringe.

Vomiting is one of the modes by which nature helps itself, by throwing out substances from the stomach that are objectionable to it or poisonous. With poisoning the ease of vomiting is a blessing; when, however, it comes from catarrh of the stomach, it is long, lasting and continuous. One of the best remedies is the same as the last remedy given in the case of cholera morbus. After vomiting is stopped, give the patient a rest and some food, such as barley broth or something that will give the stomach coating again. One more remedy for



stomach trouble is the outward application of a mustard plaster or mustard poultice.

Take two heaping tablespoonfuls of mustard and two of ground flaxseed, mix them together dry, then pour boiling water on it and stir, making it of thin consistency. Put this between two thin muslin cloths. Put one on the stomach as hot as the patient can bear it. This can remain for several hours if kept hot, as ground flaxseed mixed with it will prevent it from drawing a blister. To keep the plaster hot, take a rubber bag or bottles with hot water in it and put against it, which will keep it hot for a long time. This acts as a counter irritant, as the mustard will irritate and redden the skin on the outside and will draw out any inflammation that might exist in the inner parts.

### Stomach Trouble

The following is in addition to what I have said on the subject in another part and which I had forgotten. It treats on diarrhoea or dysentery. I did say that every household should have a fountain syringe. Great relief can be obtained by washing out the bowels after each passage, by using the syringe containing warm water, into which has been placed five or ten drops of paregoric. This will relieve the burning sensation or pain in the lower bowels, caused by the acid or gastric juice in the undigested food as it passes out of the body. By following this it very often effects a cure and the diarrhoea will stop without using anything else. This also checks the irritation. The tube should be lubricated with a little vaseline.

Olive oil, also often called sweet oil, has great value in a great many ailments that befall human beings.

In croupy cough by children a teaspoonful of oil given every hour for several hours, often not only gives relief, but makes a cure in children that are poor in flesh and do not thrive. A tea or tablespoonful according to the age of the child, given three or four times a day, often will build up their system in a short time. One of the great cures that have been made by olive oil is a disease called appendicitis. This has been cured by freely using olive oil, a tablespoonful given every hour for several days having made a complete cure in many cases. Appendicitis is the inflammation of a very small bowel that is attached to the large bowel, and has an inlet at the bowel, but on the other end closed. In healthy condition it is the size of an ordinary sized thumb of a man. If any hard substance gets down into it and nature cannot throw it out, because the cover or clasp at the end of the bowel does not work easy for want of cleaning and greasing, then inflammation sets in and a person afflicted will suffer great pain. This



is about the usual symptom of the disease. By using olive oil freely it greases the bowels including the appendix and softens everything. The usual way for most doctors to cure this dangerous disease is by the use of the knife; they perform an operation by opening the lower part of the abdomen and cut off the appendix. This is almost a daily occurrence. If the wound where the appendix is cut off festers, or was already festered when the operation was made, the case usually turns out fatal for the patient. Our son Charles was operated on and in a few days it festered and he died. We did not know of the olive oil cure or I would surely have resorted to this simple remedy first. I have heard of one doctor who uses this olive oil cure very successfully. The contents of the appendix that have been removed have been examined; some claim that grape and raisin, also other fruit seeds are said to have been the cause for appendicitis. One professor made a thorough investigation and found the cause to be sharp pieces of chips of glaze from agate pots or glazed iron pots that broke loose and had gotten into the eatables and lodged into the appendix. Oil can also be administered with a syringe through the rectum. This is done in severe cases of constipation and great benefit is derived from it.

Camphorated oil is also very beneficial in cases of severe colds to rub in on the skin.

The cause of the disease called appendicitis, according to a statement published recently by one of our celebrated doctors, who has made a thorough examination of the contents of the appendix that had been taken out of patients operated on for appendicitis, that in many cases he found pieces of hard sharp glaze which had broken off pans, pots or dishes made of iron and glazed, and used to cook in. This is also known as agate ware. When left on fire it becomes overheated and the glaze breaks off and gets into the eatables which are swallowed unnoticed.

### Rheumatism Preventives

“One ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” This especially holds good in rheumatism. All medical authorities agree that rheumatism is produced by a sour digestion in the stomach, or else they call it by an acid diathesis that means a sour digestion. After persons find the first indication of rheumatic pains in any part of their bodies, they should regulate their diet or their food so as to avoid this sour digestion, which can be done by observation of the articles of the daily diet which produce this sour turn or acid condition, of which sugar or sweets of any kind, which certainly produce an acid fermentation in the stomach, is the main cause, and thereby causing a

larger quantity of uric acid than the liver and kidneys can eliminate or take out of their body.

The drinking of one or two tumblers of water, either warm or cold, with a little salt on rising in the morning, also upon retiring at night, will assist nature considerably by flushing or washing out the larger quantities of uric acid. Every person should pass at least one and a half quarts of liquids through their bodies daily. The use of the water in this manner is considered an excellent preventive of rheumatism. To this water might also be added some lithia tablets, about five grains at one time. This is also a known preventive of rheumatism.

A very good preventive is to stop the use of Rhine wine, champagne, brandy and other alcoholic drinks. With many persons these named articles will bring on rheumatic gout very quick—in fact, a great deal faster than they can get rid of it. There are many persons whose system or bodies are predisposed to have rheumatic gout without the use of alcoholic drinks. They are usually of the stout or lymphatic kind with a slow working liver and kidneys.

## Rheumatism

Another disease of the digestive organs called by medical books a disease of the nutrition or nourishment of the body, is rheumatism. It is rather a big undertaking for a layman to give advice in regard to the cure of rheumatism, when it is such a big tax on physicians to make cures of this disease, especially when the United States Dispensary, under the head of three kinds of rheumatism, gives nearly 200 articles of medicine for the cure of this disease for the doctors to choose from.

### Ordinary Rheumatism

Pains in shoulders, joints, or in different parts of the body, also lumbago and muscular rheumatism.

The writer who has been subject to attacks of rheumatism for the biggest part of his lifetime will give his experience of his most successful cures that, after trying medicines prescribed and not getting the proper result therefrom, he found that by lying in bed and drinking hot teas or stimulants and covering up his whole body, even his head, and getting into a thorough perspiration, keeping it up for an hour or more, and while this perspiring is going on, rub himself with a towel under the cover, this exercise will help to make the perspiration flow still more freely. This process of rubbing and working with the different parts of the body, and at the same time discharging a copious amount of water from pores of the body, thereby getting rid

of a large quantity of uric acid, and therefore getting relief from the pains and a cure from the disease. This should be the first thing done to try for the cure of rheumatism. Care should be taken to have the room warm and the clothes in being changed should also be warm, and the person should lay in bed for half a day at least and take some nourishing food that does not contain anything very sour or very sweet. If this does not make a cure, the same thing should be repeated again the following day, but in the majority of cases this will make a cure. Another way to get a good sweat is by taking a turkish bath, preferably in your own home.

### Sciatica Rheumatism

This, next to inflammatory, is the most painful of the different kinds of rheumatism, as it attacks the sciatic nerve in the body. The writer has had some very excellent results in the cure of this disease, by the use of Eades Gout and Rheumatic Pills, made in London, England, and obtainable at almost every drug store in our large cities. Often five or six of these pills have made a complete cure. The directions are on each bottle, but I will say in addition that they should be used very carefully and after five or six pills have been used, the person should stop for several days or a week before taking any more of them, as they are very powerful. The writer has also had very good results in allaying terrible pain caused by sciatica rheumatism by the use of Spanish fly blisters. The writer has used them in the following manner, by taking a piece of adhesive or sticking plaster about four inches wide and about twelve inches long, through the middle of this, about one and a half or two inches apart took the fly blister salve, made five spots a little larger than a nickle and about the thickness of a knife blade, and laying on the outer side of the leg where the pain was the greatest, between the knee joint and the hip joint, the blisters to lay on the nerve between the muscles. This will produce a blister in from six to eight hours and nearly as large as a half dollar. As soon as the blisters appear, the pain from the rheumatism ceases, and in my case it has not returned up to the present time. Be very careful in removing the sticking plaster not to take off the skin of the blister. Open the blisters on downward side to leave water out. These should then be poulticed for at least two days. These poultices should be made of ground flaxseed and boiling water, made like a thin dough, put between two cloths and applied as warm as patient can bear it. Care should be taken that the skin of the blister remains on. The poultice can be kept warm for a long time, by applying a rubber bag filled with warm water on the outside of the poultices. The poultices

should be made with hot water and put on warm enough so as not to burn, between two thin rags, and renewed when cooled off. I forgot to state that the blisters should be perforated at the lowest part so that the water can run out freely. The wounds can be healed in a few days by the use of zinc ointment on a piece of muslin and fastened on with a piece of sticking plaster to keep it in place. If this does not make an entire cure, the same can be applied on the other limb the same way until the pain is all gone, but I had full relief and cure upon one application. The writer has used Spanish fly salve many times in the last forty years and always with good result. The salve does not burn or hurt while it draws a blister. If it is desirable not to heal the wounds from blisters too quick make a brown soap plaster, mix soap and molasses or dissolved sugar.

### Inflammatory Rheumatism

Having had inflammatory rheumatism several times, and very severely in the hip joint, and trying different applications. First trying warm and then cold, I finally received the most benefit by the application of towels dipped in cold water and laid on for several hours until the inflammation has passed away; at the same time taking inward remedy to allay any fever that is usually present in the state of inflammatory rheumatism. A new article now being used for outward application is anti-phlogestine or flogestine; this takes out the inflammation. If the above will not make a cure, it is best to send for the doctor.

### Chronic or Calcaras Rheumatism

The best remedies for this is in such articles that are solvents of the lime and the uric acid that accumulates in the joints of the limbs, and let it pass out of the system by drinking plenty of water. Among the best known remedies is phosphoric waters and a chemical called calcaria fluorica, recommended by Dr. Schissler of Oldenburg, Germany. The continuous use of lithia water and also pepper-racine water are the most beneficial. For further information consult your doctor.







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## INSTRUCTIONS

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*Miss Hermina Ritter*

FAMILY REGISTER

CONTINUED







Hermonia Ritter - Bitzer. daughter  
of the late Henry B. Ritter of  
Philadelphia, Pa. She was born - Aug. 17, 1890.  
She married William C. Bitzer of  
Philadelphia, November, 25, 1907.  
Three children were born.

1. Carl Frederick John - Dec. 7, 1908.
2. Kenneth Ritter. - April 24, 1911.
3. Norman Crawford - Dec. 5, 1912.

These children, were all born at  
Doylestown, Pa, Bucks County.  
Where Mr. and Mrs. Bitzer lived  
for a few years after their  
marriage.

Then they moved to Lancaster, Pa.  
where they have been living for over  
three years. His writing was written  
November, 2, 1916.

Mr. Bitzer is a structural draftsman  
and has been with the "Lancaster  
Machine & Structural Works" for over


























































































































































































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